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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

JULY 31st, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 31

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Contests & Tournaments

RESULTS OF NORTH SHORE ANGLERS CONTEST

The North Shore Anglers held its 1st Annual Weakfish contest July 12-13. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our official weigh-in stations: Caraftis Fishing Station, Charlie's Fisherman's Haven, Ralph's Fishing Station, Dick's Sporting Goods, Angler's Den, Sutler Bait and Tackle.

Our 1st place prize money went to Richard DeMarco of Shirley for his 10 lb. 10 oz. weakfish; 2nd place to George Planding of Mt. Sinai for his 10 lb. 5 oz. weakfish; 3rd place, Donald Dapolito of Setauket, 9 lb. 9 oz. weakfish.

Many other fish were weighed in in the 8 and 9 lb. range. We would like to thank all the anglers who participated in our contest.

GREAT GUN ANGLERS $4000 SHARK TOURNEY

The Great Gun Anglers Shark Tournament will be held August 16, 1980 and will feature $4000 in guaranteed prize money.

For slip arrangements in the Moriches area for Friday evening, August 15 and Saturday, August 16, please contact: Bill DeLuca, (516) 878-4720.

BABYLON SNAPPER DERBY

The Annual Babylon Tuna Club Snapper Derby will be held Saturday, August 30, 9AM at the Babylon Village Dock.

The contest is open to all boys and girls up to and including 12-years-of-age—and bring your own tackle.

Free bait, free refreshments, prizes and trophies will be provided by the Babylon Tuna Club. For more info, contact chairman Marty Gurski, (516) 273-2788.

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB RELEASES 130 SURF CAUGHT WEAKS

The High Hill Striper Club, who relentlessly fishes the Long Island Surf, drilled out 210 fish in June. The fish were mostly weaks and included two 12 lb. weaks, three 11 lb. weaks and twelve 10 lbers. The High Hill Striper Club, long a conservation oriented club, released 130 of the point fish taken in June. As of the end of June, Fred Schwab led the most points category with 242 points. The most released fish points category was headed up by Bill Muller with 320 points. The biggest weakfish was taken by Bob Buss and weighed 12 lbs. 3 oz.

The High Hill Striper Club has a few openings for new members who are dedicated to surf fishing. Contact: Larry Dos Santos at 489-4419.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

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About the Cover—

When crabs are a problem in the surf, a float can be added to the leader to keep the chunk bait off the bottom—like the fish-finder rig on the cover. See the article on page 10.

Cover photo by WILLIAM A. MULLER

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SOUTH SIDE FLUKE**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons — EDITOR
Fred Golofaro — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman — NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Rick Reina — PRODUCTION MANAGER

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REWARD!

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Texas Instruments is conducting an environmental study to determine the survival, movements and population size of the striped bass in the Hudson River. An estimated 4000 striped bass will be tagged from March through June with $10 or $5 tags. *Texas Instruments* will pay a cash reward for each tag returned. To obtain your reward and detailed information on your fish, return the tag along with the date, method and specific location of capture to:

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CHUM LINES

ADDED CAUTION ABOUT PCBs

Dr. William Muller's recent editorial concerning PCBs being found in Long Island Sound fish was accurate as far as it went. However, we would like to point out a few additional facts.

Anthony Taormina, Director of Marine Resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation, advised the audience that it is probably safe to eat striped bass from Long Island Sound about once a week. Doc's editorial made a similar statement. However, neither cautioned that this is bad advice for women of childbearing age, or for any individuals exposed to excessive amounts of PCBs. Such a recommendation ignores the fact that the average U.S. citizen already has some ten parts per million of the toxic substance in his or her fatty tissues, and that we already daily ingesting PCBs via foods, milk, drinking water, and even through the air we breathe.

Among the several foods that are found to be contaminated with PCBs, fish appear to carry the highest concentrations of the poison. So why tempt fate by consuming PCB-tainted bass or blues?

Clarification of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's temporary safe tolerance level of five parts per million of PCBs in edible fish is needed. In August, 1980, the FDA announced a new, safer PCB level of *two parts per million*. Under the law, anyone has the opportunity of filing an objection to a new regulation. Several commercial fishing groups did just that, and the FDA "stayed" its new edict pending review of the objections, which were based on "economic hardship." The data presented by the netters has already been under review for a year, and the FDA must sooner or later make a decision on which should be the prevailing criterion: protecting the public's health and safety or protecting the earnings of the market fishermen. The need for low tolerance levels for PCBs is demonstrated by levels established in other countries. In Canada, it's 2 ppm; in Sweden, 1 ppm, and in Japan, 3 ppm. We know that Long Island Sound stripers average slightly under 4 ppm, and we hope this additional information will help your readers to make a more educated decision. *Bob Rance, President, Save Our Stripers, Inc.*

HARPOONING OF WHITE SHARKS DUMB?

Since I am an avid SPORT fisherman and subscriber to your publication for many years, I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have written to Frank Mundus. The subject is one which has already gotten enough attention in the past. However, when something like this occurs, I feel it is every sportsman's responsibility to voice his opinion. Thank you for your constant effort to improve sport fishing and for your time invested in the past in reprimanding these types of individuals. *Peter Javits, Islip, New York.*

Dear Capt. Frank Mundus, I am writing you this letter because something must be said about your glory hunting at the expense of another great white shark. Considering your years in the fishing business and your reputation as one of the world's best shark fishermen, why on earth do you have to harpoon such a magnificent creature? I really don't feel that your boat or your life was in danger, so it really wasn't for self-defense. I sort of figure that the challenge and reward comes from getting him to take a bait, not in sticking him with a couple of harpoons. I don't think your reputation needs anymore ego boosts or television coverage. I have quite a few years of shark fishing experience and my most memorable and gratifying moments are those where I have been able to convince a mako, or for that matter any fish, that the baits that I rigged were realistic enough that it looked like something worth eating. I have had several occasions where a big mako came alongside my boat and would proceed to ignore every offering—never once did I consider harpooning it. The opportunity was there; however, I felt that what 'is fair is fair', especially in fishing. If the fish doesn't want your bait, maybe it wasn't meant to be and you look forward to the next time. In the meantime, you refine your techniques. For me, the thrill in fishing is the initial pick-up and the setting of the hook—not in the show-off of dead animals at the dock. To just stick a great white in the back with a couple of harpoons and let the half-inch nylon anchor rope and 40' boat do the work IS NOT SPORT FISHING. I feel that we fishermen are in an era of conservation and we have to realize that the sea is not an endless bounty of fish-life. Great whites in particular are far and few between and this you should know better than most. I ask you to please reconsider your techniques and then search your conscience. Your reputation as a "Sportsman" has a large black mark on it and I know that many other sportsmen feel the same way I do.

National Marine Fisheries Service tuna expert, Bruce Freeman, has been appointed as Marine Fisheries Chief for the State of New Jersey. While Bruce is an excellent choice for this new position, his absence at NMFS may prove costly. There are already few enough in NMFS who have a real feel for recreational fishing and the loss of one of those who has climbed furthest up the ladder

NATIONAL SCENE

with Al Ristori

JERSEY'S GAIN IS NMFS LOSS

will do our cause no good. Bruce had many good ideas about ways to improve the bluefin tuna situation, but all too often those solid concepts were rejected by superiors in favor of proposals more suited to the vested interests involved. Bruce also was one of those at NMFS farsighted enough to understand the importance of working on a bluefish management plan—rather than waiting for a crisis to develop.

The marine fisheries post in New Jersey provides a unique opportunity to guide the development and conservation of marine resources in the Garden State, and Bruce is certainly well qualified to handle it. If successful, it may also point the way to a possible reorganization in New York that will provide more power to the Marine District.

Environmental Groups Win One On Ocean Dumping

As the result of a two-year legal battle by the National Wildlife Federation and the Environmental Defense Fund, more than one hundred thirty ocean dumping sites off the coasts of fifteen states will be less likely to pollute valuable coastal fisheries in the future. The suit filed by these organizations challenged the way in which the Corps dumped dredged spoils from harbor bottoms at the "Mud Dump" site in New York Bight, six miles off the Jersey Coast. In June, Judge Charles Tenney ruled that the dumping of almost nine million cubic yards of dredged material per year at the Mud Dump site must be the subject of a "full-scale, comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement, and the Corps is responsible for providing such a report." The National Wildlife Federation believes that contaminated spoils should be contained within dikes between two small islands off Staten Island. Another option would be to dump the material at barren inland sites.

Several issues raised in the original lawsuit were settled out of court. The Corps yielded to the environmental groups by agreeing to require more frequent testing of dredged spoils dumped in connection with periodic river and harbor maintenance. In addition, the Corps agreed to limit the duration of ocean dumping permits for all dredging projects nationwide to a maximum of three years. As a result of that agreement, full environmental reviews with public participation must now precede permit renewals.

Earlier this year, New York Harbor spoils became a subject of controversy when it was discovered that sea worms exposed to the dredged material became contaminated with high levels of PCBs—a cancer-causing chemical. EPA threatened to close the harbor shortly before the ocean liner "Queen Elizabeth II" was to dock, but finally permitted the dredging to continue.

Unfortunately, the end of ocean dumping is still not in sight. Indeed, a number of prominent scientists testified at House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee hearing in May that ocean dumping may still be the least dangerous option for disposing of dredge waste. For instance, Dr. H. James Simpson, associate professor of geological sciences at Columbia University, said the Hudson River and the harbor should be dredged to get rid of sediments "grossly contaminated" with industrial wastes, but also added that continued dumping off the New York and New Jersey Coasts was the "least dangerous" option available at this time.

Dr. Willis Pequegnat, President of Tereco Corp., said various studies showed that only small amounts of PCBs are released from spoils dredged at sea, but also noted that capping contaminated spoils with clean dredged material showed promise. Dr. Robert Pierce, a biologist with the Army Corps of Engineers, stated that he was convinced that "upland disposal will cause, in many instances, greater adverse effects on the human population than controlled discharge in the aquatic environment." Dr. Joseph O'Conner, of New York University's Institute for Environmental Medicine, felt it was impossible to determine just how great a risk ocean wastes present to human health because of the problems involved in determining how much fish and shellfish is consumed. Furthermore, Dr. Frank Wilkes, of EPA, noted that there is conflicting evidence on the movement of PCBs through the food chain, and no way of knowing what the actual risk is in eating fish and shellfish exposed to that contaminant.

All in all, it doesn't look good for any early elimination of dredge spoils dumping in the New York Bight area. On the other hand, more attention will now be devoted to the effects of such dumping—and the results of such investigations may lead to an end to this practice in years to come.

Artificial Reefs Increase Fish Populations

Scientists working with artificial reefs have long suspected that they basically provide the additional carrying capacity with which to add to the total biomass, rather than merely shifting populations from one area to another. That theory was proved by a study of artificial and natural reefs in the Florida Keys by scientists R. B. Stone, H. L. Pratt, R. O. Barker, Jr., and E. E. Davis. An artificial reef was placed adjacent to a natural coral patch reef of similar size to study the feasibility of increasing fish carrying capacity and total biomass within a given area by augmenting natural reef habitat. After the artificial reef had been in place seven months, visual observations indicated about equal numbers of fishes and similar species composition on both the artificial reef and the natural patch reef. Although the artificial reef was only eighty-one feet from the natural reef, it did not diminish the resident populations of the natural reef, but doubled the carrying capacity and fish biomass in the immediate vicinity of the two reefs.

In view of this information, it was disconcerting to read an article in the August issue of "National Fisherman" which noted that the National Marine Fisheries Service had cooperated with the Massachusetts Inshore Draggermen's Association in killing a proposal by a "Junkman" to provide tire reefs off Gloucester. Naturally, the draggers didn't want any obstructions in the areas they drag, but NMFS forgot the common good that would be served by providing this additional habitat. The entire artificial reef program has been handicapped by lack of funds for some time, and it's hard to believe that government officials would turn down a unique opportunity to enhance the marine environment at no cost to the taxpayer, in favor of following the dictates of a single group which might be slightly inconvenienced!

Inland Stripers Growing Bigger

Those of you having trouble catching stripers these days needn't worry about that species becoming extinct. Though the trend in saltwater has been straight downhill in recent years, the hardy striper has been adapting to freshwater throughout the country without difficulty. State records are falling to big bass in some of the unlikeliest places. According to the Sport Fishing Institute Bulletin, a 41½ lb. striper was taken on May 12 at Beaver Lake, Arkansas, while a 47¼ lber. was caught by a guide on Bull Shoals Reservoir, Missouri on May 7. That same day, the guide's client boated bass of 38 lbs. 2 oz. and 38 lbs. 7 oz. Not bad for freshwater—or anywhere for that matter! Raystown Lake, on the Juniata River below Huntingdon,

(Continued on page 7.)

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

UGLY STIK WINNER FOR AUGUST

RICHARD MATOUSEK—LUCKY WINNER! We are delighted to award the Shakespeare Tackle Company's seven foot spinning rod for August to Richard, who lives in Brooklyn. In his letter, Richard, like so many of the readers of this column, has picked up on the information and opinions provided by others and stretched this towards new horizons. He writes: "I have enjoyed reading your column every week in The Long Island Fisherman, and I have learned much from the information which it contains. However, once again I have read, as I have many times in the past, that water temperature is the key to the movement of various species of fish. When the water temperature gets sufficiently warm, or cold depending upon the species and the time of the year, in come the fish until the process is reversed. Statements like this seem to be very important to the authors of articles about fishing and may mean a lot to seasoned veterans of our favorite sport. I do quite a lot of fishing from the surf and in boats for just about all the popular species available in our local waters; but being neither an author of fishing articles nor a seasoned veteran, I find statements like this one vague, to say the least. Since water temperature is available from the National Weather Service Radio, I feel that a definitive statements on fishes temperature tolerances would be extremely helpful. Therefore—what water temperatures are best for the following species of fish: flounder, fluke, bluefish, cod, striped bass, blackfish, weakfish, sea bass, mackerel, porgy, pollack, and whiting?"

MY SCIENTIST'S HAT! I know that when I put my scientist's hat on that many of you groan in anticipation of a long and confusing answer. Well, start groaning because there is so much to this topic that it requires some discussion. However, in part, that's what makes this question so attractive: it is meaty. The first thing I'm expected to say when I wear my scientist's hat is that "there is so much we don't understand about this topic." Therefore, not wanting to disappoint anyone, consider it said. Nonetheless, however, "in character" such a comment is, it is true. Recent studies have shown that information formerly held as unassailable turns out to be imperfect. Probably the best example of this has been our understanding of water temperature preferences of the bluefish **Pomatomus saltatrix**. Until about five years ago it was said confidently that bluefish like the water warm and that temperatures in the mid to upper sixties were best. When the water started to cool, they said, the blues will leave. However, studies in the early part of this decade show that this is not the case at all. Perhaps the young blues, snappers and harbor blues prefer the water on the warm side, but it is very clear that the big choppers seem to be in their best feeding mood when the water temperature is in the mid to upper fifties. The bigger the blues, the longer they will linger in the fall. Even at that, there is some evidence to indicate that smaller blues, too, may feel very comfortable in water that is from fifty-five to sixty degrees. After all, don't the little toothy guys show up in Great South Bay, Peconic, Montauk, and Long Island Sound in late April and early May?

THEREFORE, MUCH WILL CHANGE! I firmly believe that our comprehension of water temperature preferences by fish will change as more and more research is done. Local expert fishermen are ignoring the so-called "bible" on water temperatures and fish arrivals. For example, on a recent trip with Montauk's Captain John DeMaio he said: "I don't know what the water temperature is and I fish for the fish when they are there!" However, we can discuss what is currently accepted as long as we understand that much of this will likely be revised in the years ahead.

OVERALL TREND! Now that I've convinced everyone that water temperature has nothing to do with the migrations of fish, I can, true to form with my scientist's hat on, reverse my field and point out how these two items are related. We don't expect a Great South Bay weakfish blitz in January or a run of giant sea flounder in Peconic during August—and for good reason. Fishing follows seasons because the fish do respond to patterns of water temperature. Most species can tolerate a wide range of water temperatures, but will not spawn except in a small range. Generally, much the same can be said of feeding and all species will be found to have a range of about five to ten degrees at which they really put on the feed bag. At temperatures significantly above or below this feeding temperature range, they may become lethargic and feed in very erratic ways. The spawning temperature range is probably a lot more rigid than the feeding range since spawning behavior is controlled hormonally and is usually triggered by some external factor—most often temperature. Thus, we believe that spawning temperatures for the fish you mentioned include the thirties to forties for flounder; forties to low fifties for striped bass; mid-fifties for blackfish; upper forties to upper fifties for weakfish; fifties for mackerel and porgies. Fluke spawn in about fifty fathoms of water on the Continental Shelf and to the best of my knowledge no one has taken detailed temperature readings for fluke at the spawning location during the spawning period. However, based upon my general knowledge of this situation, I would guess that temperatures around fifty degrees would shape up as about right. Cod seem to be an exception to the rules since they spawn throughout their range. Thus they can spawn, and the eggs can develop in a great range of temperatures. That would be a problem for many species since the development of the eggs and young fish might be negatively affected. However, the cod is able to get around this by altering the development pattern in waters of different temperatures. Thus, codfish spawned and hatched in colder water will have fewer vertebrae (spine bones) than those hatched in more southern latitudes. Bluefish are thought to spawn offshore, although precisely where is not known with certainty. However, it would then appear that spawning temperatures in the low to mid-sixties would be about right—but that is only a guess. Pollack, whiting, haddock are generally considered as open ocean demersal (bottom) species and, therefore, would prefer cooler spawning temperatures. However, detailed studies are not in evidence to provide all details.

NEW INFO! Even our understandings of spawning temperatures can be doubted now in light of some interesting observations of various species in spawning condition well outside of the "accepted" spawning season. For example, ripe female bass have been found during July while they are supposed to spawn in March and April. Ripe weakfish have been taken as late as October. If I had to guess, and really I'd prefer not to, I would say that fish vary in their characteristics; therefore, although the bulk of the population may spawn in a specific period under specific conditions of water temperature and other factors, there may be some that attempt to spawn well before and beyond the "normally" accepted times. Probably these attempts fail most of the time, but may succeed on rare occasions when weather patterns are altered. In part, this may be a survival mechanism that overcomes the whims of Nature.

FEEDING IS ANOTHER MATTER! Again, there is a "best" feeding temperature range for most fish, but it is not hard and fast. For the species you mentioned, we can assume a feeding temperature range for flounder from the low forties to the mid-fifties; for fluke, the mid-fifties to the upper sixties; for cod the mid-forties to the mid-fifties; for bluefish the upper fifties to the upper sixties (depending upon size); for stripers the low fifties to the low sixties; for weakfish, the upper forties to around sixty degrees; for sea bass the low fifties to the low sixties; for

porgies the upper fifties to the upper sixties; for mackerel the low fifties to around sixty; for pollack the upper forties to the mid-fifties, and for whiting, the mid-forties to around fifty. Now, we said that these optimum feeding ranges are not hard and fast and this is apparently so because fish, like other living creatures must first and foremost, survive. To do so, they follow the prey that supports them and the prey species have temperature tolerance ranges, too. However, when food for the prey species is readily available, the game fish may linger and feed heavily below or above the so-called best feeding range. One of the most important factors in this regard is the abundance of both prey species and game fish. When a fish is abundant, a certain portion of the population will invade relatively "new" territories and due to feeding competition often feed heavily at temperatures well above and below the supposed best range. When the fish is a prey species, game fish may be "held" as temperatures fall for a prolonged period of time and continue to take advantage of the easy eating. When bass were very plentiful in the early seventies, for example, we continued to take substantial numbers of them in eastern waters well into December. Now that those stocks are down most of the action is over by mid-November. Also in the early seventies when the first few great weakfish year classes began to make their impact on the fishery, the weaks began to put on the feed bag by mid-April and were still taken in good numbers by the end of June in Great South Bay and Peconic. Competition among tremendous numbers of weaks forced them to feed longer as temperatures rose sharply. In fact, we were able to take at least some outsized tiderunners during those years throughout the entire summer by working specific structure zones. The pressure of a huge population forced some of those weaks to stay behind in the bays when the bulk of the schools left for the ocean.

RELATIONSHIPS BECOME UNWIELDLY. There are, therefore, many factors that impact on fish behavior and migration. We can identify a few key ones and seem to overshadow basic patterns of feeding, spawning, and migration. Certainly, the temperature of the water is one of these key factors. However, as we have seen there are other factors that can pressure or induce fish to alter their "normal" behavior. The drive of seasonal water temperature patterns both upwards in the spring and then downward in the fall is clearly an overpowering force. For this reason, local expert anglers gear their own fishing habits to what are supposed to be the seasonal arrival of various species. Thus, although the traditional beginning of the flounder season is supposed to be St. Patrick's Day, sharpies may try for flounder as early as late February if they gauge that the winter has been a mild one, or delay the start to late March or early April if the winter was frigid and cold winds continue to blow into the early spring. Much the same can be said for other species. There are a few anglers that I know of who regularly check the temperature of the waters where they fish with either an electronic or hand thermometer. Others do it by feel. They stick a hand in the water and make a judgment. In their minds, they weigh the factors and circumstances and then reach a decision as to whether an early effort is justified. Sometimes it pays off, but for an equal number of times it doesn't. After all, someone has to be first to catch fish of a given species at the start of a new season.

THANKS TO RICHARD MATOUSEK. We hope you get many enjoyable fishing hours from your Ugly Stik rod. We remind other readers that it isn't too late to enter our Win-A-Shakespeare Rod Contest. Simply send your letter to me, care of L.I.F. Mark the outside of the envelope plainly with the words "Rod Contest."

JERSEY LOSS NMFS GAIN

(Continued from page 5.)

Pennsylvania, is a relatively new one for stripers, but a 17 lb. 10 oz. fish was taken there this spring. New Jersey is pushing ahead with a program to introduce stripers into lakes, though I'm not aware of any such plans in New York. A previous planting in Union Lake, New Jersey, produced a new landlocked state record striper of 27 lbs. 12 oz. in 1978.

SURF FISHING:
BAIT IT & SPIKE IT!

(Continued from page 11.)

but a pyramid sinker may be a necessity in the high surf in order to hold bottom against the tidal sweep and the turbulence generated by crashing waves. Neither of these two sinkers may be acceptable on rough bottoms since it will be more likely to slip around and over bottom debris. The weight of the sinker will depend upon conditions but, in general, the fisherman always tries to use the lightest sinker possible for two reasons. First, since we will be casting heavy hunks of bait, a lighter sinker will limit the momentum conflict between bait and sinker and allow the bait to project towards the open sea and minimize the tumble of the rig allowing for longer and more accurate casts.

I indicated before that I like to use a 7/0 hook. Some may disagree with my choice preferring either a larger or smaller hook, one with a different design, or a long shank hook instead of the stubby design. Much depends on habit and the size of the blues. If the fish average around five pounds, one might be better advised to use a 5/0 hook or even a 3/0. Some fishermen insist on a Siwash hook, claiming that this style hook is easier to sink into the mouth of a biting fish. Regardless of the style or size, one thing should be universally accepted: make sure that your hooks are needle sharp. Although I sharpen my hooks fastidiously before each trip, I carry a small jeweler's file with me on the beach. It is surprising how the process of retrieving hooks across the bottom can dull the points of hooks in just a few casts. An encounter with a toothy blue is also likely to dull or even break off the points since both the teeth and the jaws of blues are tough.

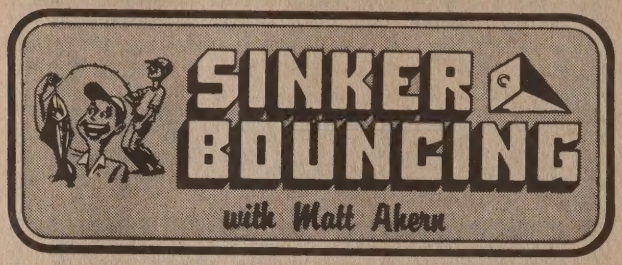
A sharp hook will not only help you to connect with your adversary, but will also be easier to thread through a bait. Although I have seen fishermen sling whole mullets and bunker, most prefer to chunk the fish. The average size adult bunker usually surrenders about five chunks for me. A large mackerel will provide perhaps eight pieces, and a mullet perhaps one or two less than five depending upon its size. Some folks plug-cut (slice on an angle) the bait, but I prefer to slice straight through. The quality of the bait is more important than size or angle of cut. Fresh snagged bait is best; flash frozen right out of the water is next best, and any kind of frozen is better than none at all. Poor quality bait is soft, falls off the hook, and doesn't seem to have the same smell appeal to the blues as fresher baits.

In the high surf, we try to sling the baits out beyond the breakers where the water is a little deeper and the turbulence less. However, it is important to "read" the beach and look for troughs or holes which will reveal themselves as quiet blotches surrounded by white water. Blues, bass, and most other predators for that matter will wait in these spots to ambush bait that is swept along by currents and wave action. In quiet waters casting distance and accuracy will be far less important than being on the right stretch of beach. In the high surf, the rods should be placed in long sand spikes to keep the line as high above the breakers as possible. In this way, the surging waves will tend not to lift the baited rigs. In quiet water, the fishermen can use a small spike, thrust the rod between rocks, or hold it leisurely.

When a blue picks up the bait aggressively, it is easy to hook up. The most important thing you can do then is to jump to the rod and strike back smartly. However, when the blues are picky you may have some serious problems. It is hard to imagine that these often nasty fish will play with a bait. I have watched the tip of my rod wiggle ever so slightly for as much as ten minutes before the blue decided it was time to eat. Great patience is required at these times since if you strike back too quickly you'll miss the fish and spook him away.

In spite of the fact that baitfishing techniques for blues are similar on all coasts, there still is room for some creativity and it's usually the fisherman with the creative wrinkle and the persistent attitude who scores best. In these changing times, baitfishing may offer much to an otherwise purist surf fisherman.

Finally, we have arrived at the concluding article in this series which was sparked originally by a simple letter of request to Bill Muller from Eric Cisar of Brooklyn, in which Mr. Cisar asked for information on how to catch more and bigger fish while party boat fishing. I entitled the series "Portrait Of A Fisherman" not to toot my own horn, but to portray what many fishermen have endured and experienced in order to put "more and



PORTRAIT OF A FISHERMAN

★PART FOUR★

bigger" fish in their buckets...a sort of composite, one might say. I'm sure many of our brother fishermen out there can vouch for the accuracy of these articles, for they, too, have gone through similar trials and tribulations as they desperately sought to "learn the game."

In the beginning of one's fishing career, nothing comes easy...if it does, those who find it so had best stand back and evaluate their efforts. It is quite possible they have unknowingly been courting Lady Luck, and this fair creature is fickle at best. Better to build on a solid foundation of trial-and-error and personal experience. Most assuredly, in this respect, the longest way 'round is the shortest way home.

As mentioned several weeks ago, it would be impossible to cram sixty years of almost continuous fishing into four short articles, but I have strived to give an overall portrayal of my efforts—which I'm sure have been mirrored by multitudes before and after me. Not one previous incident has been embellished for the sake of its telling. And what follows in this concluding article is also cloaked in that same mantle of sincerity.

Whatever enjoyment I've had in the bottom fishing game over the years can be credited solely to those excellent bottom-fishing old-timers of my youth. I take no credit for myself, for all I had going for me at the time was enthusiasm and the intense desire to learn as best I could. It is these kind and great fishermen who unselfishly took time out from their own enjoyment to teach those desiring to learn who truly deserve the accolades of their pupils. I would be most ungrateful if I did not acknowledge that.

As mentioned at the conclusion of last week's article, this week we'll take up the subject of what I was taught by these same old-timers on the catching of blackfish and fluke. And I will say now that most of the time will be taken up by the blackfish, for this fish is indeed one shrewd cookie. As for ling, whiting, sea bass, porgies, etc., these are fish which do not ordinarily present much of a problem in the catching, and are, therefore, best left to individual articles on them.

And to those who wonder why I don't mention bluefish, the reason is simple enough. It is far more difficult to catch bulldog blackfish than it is to catch bluefish—at least I have always found this so. It may be surprising to some, but we never went bluefishing during those early days of my youth. We did catch them, of course, but always incidental to other fishing.

For those readers who are interested in bluefishing, I have only one tip to offer. It is based on what I've done and have seen accomplished by others many times while chumming blues on the Cholera Bank.

After you've gotten your share of the chummed blues, get a chunk of butterfish, or whatever, on bottom. There's where you are more than likely to find the pool fish. Why this should be, I don't know. Possibly it is because these big fish shy away from the upper commotion and find the missed pickings easy and less hectic to come by. But be that as it may, I've frequently caught my largest blues when purposely using this method. It will pay to keep this in mind—for someday...

But let's get back to our blackfish and fluke.

I've mentioned this many times before, but it bears repeating. Of all our bottom feeders, I have always found successful and consistent catching of blackfish the most difficult. Some fishermen will dispute this, I know, citing perhaps the codfish as often hardest to come by, but this has not been my experience. And as I've said more than once, I doff my fishing cap to the master blackfisherman, for he is the elite of the bottom fishing clan.

Many fishermen are only interested in the capture of bulldog blacks. These are the cagey, foxy, powerful, tough-as-nails, white chins which have been known to cause adult fishermen to bemoan their fate as they find themselves outwitted time and time again by one of Nature's finny creatures they thought possessed little intelligence. Should you approach the sport of blackfishing with this attitude, you are, I'm afraid, doomed to failure.

This I know for a fact, too, for that was exactly my attitude at one time. Oh, sure, I caught blackfish, but I felt extremely fortunate when I caught one over three pounds. Those eight and ten pounders I saw others catching certainly eluded me. Again, it wasn't until a sympathetic old-timer listened to my tales of woe as I endeavored to snag at least one big blackfish during those early years that I was finally set on the right path.

I was told catching large blacks was easy enough if a fisherman was willing to put in time and take the inevitable loss of riggings in stride. I wouldn't be successful every day, the old-timers added, but there would eventually be enough pool winnings to replenish all the lost hooks and sinkers—and then some.

That was enough for me. I was more than willing to sacrifice riggings if I could nail one of those bulldogs...and never mind the possible pool winnings.

All one had to do was place a baited hook—whole green crab...the larger, the better—in the worst tackle-snagging spot to be found in the area being fished—and have patience. These tackle-snagging spots aboard blackfishing party boats were easy enough to locate, I was told. All that was required was to keep one's eyes open. When a discouraged fisherman surrendered his rail spot because the mortality of snagged riggings came too high for the results obtained, all this wide-awake sharpshooter needed to do then was move in.

Well, I tried it. The first few times was a lost cause and I began to look upon this method with a jaundiced eye. But I stuck with it whenever the opportunity presented itself, and then one day I caught a seven pounder and just barely missed out on the pool. This, of course, lent the encouragement I sorely needed, and during November of that year I won three blackfish pools—the largest fish, eleven pounds.

And lest you think this method worked only in the old days, let me say that last fall aboard the Capt. Clark II, I would have again won the pool by using the same system had I not been a guest on board. As I've frequently mentioned, fish don't change—only fishermen.

To become a successful blackfisherman, one must strive to learn as much as possible about his quarry. I'll tell you of one method I used in those long-gone days by repeating part of a blackfishing article I wrote which was originally published in The Fisherman in Spring, 1977; but it bears so well on the subject, I believe we can all learn something from it.

Much of my early study of blackfish came about through on-the-spot observation, when, as a kid, visiting the old New York Aquarium at Battery Park on Manhattan's lower tip became a way of life. What an ideal place that was for the fisherman with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge!

For years I practically lived there—and it was all free and available seven days a week. You may believe that for me this fish palace was the cause of much hooky-playing. It was here where I could devote, to my heart's content, much time and study to my beloved fish—and in their own environment! What more could a fish-happy kid want? Blacks, cod, fluke, sea bass, porgies, all eventually unfolded their "secrets" to me. Just about any kind of

bottom fish of interest were available—even bergalls!

Upon entering this fisherman's paradise through its fortress-like doors (which at one time it was), I never allowed the barking of hungry sea lions, the bellowing of mean-tempered alligators, or the comic antics of strolling penguins, to distract me in the least. I always headed straight for the enormous saltwater tanks, their huge plate glass windows encircling the walls of both upper and lower floors.

The blackfish tank, probably ten or twelve feet long, six wide, and five high, was rock-studded at one end, with patches of open sand where the fish could be observed during feeding time. This feeding schedule was posted directly beneath the tank, and you may be sure I always made it a point to be there at the appointed time. (Hence, the hooky-playing.)

A dozen or so medium-sized blacks, and a cluster of bergalls, inhabited the tank and lived high off the hog when feeding time arrived. I quickly became aware that these particular blackfish were pretty smart cookies. They anticipated the feeding schedule just as well as the higher forms of marine life, such as the aforementioned noisy sea lions.

Minutes before the actual feeding time, there would be noticeable signs of restlessness. No longer would the blacks be seen taking their ease by lying upside-down, or wedged between the rocks on their sides, or in any of the thousand and one positions blackfish are known to assume while resting. All would be "on their feet," so to speak, peering fixedly from their nooks and crannies, staring avidly toward the open sand patches.

Should the attendant be late making his rounds, even the bergalls would put on a display of impatience. This would take the form of peevish bursts of energy extending five or six inches toward the feeding area, followed by a reluctant return to the hide-out whenever a further wait was deemed necessary. They reminded me of nervous race horses at the starting gate.

Food was always fed from the surface, which couldn't be seen and was in the form of crustaceans. These appeared to be green crabs and/or china-back fiddlers. I don't recall ever seeing sliced clam used. There was no rush as the crabs descended, but the instant they touched bottom and attempted to scurry to the sanctuary of the rocks, the blacks and bergalls were there, ready to pounce. And here several interesting things occurred.

The bergalls never fed first. They always waited for the leavings. Whether they were afraid of the blacks, or if it is Nature's way—I can't say; but I do know this is what happened continuously in the tank. No doubt when in proximity to each other, this occurs in their natural environment, too. There was no deviation in this phenomenon.

The largest blacks ate first—always. No doubt a pecking order exists in the sea as well as the barnyard. Once the big boys' appetites were sated, the others joined in, but never before.

But the most important aid to the fisherman was the black's unique method of feeding. I believe it is in this area where the angler can learn much about blackfish. I noticed that feeding blacks always hovered over their intended victims. They would actually roll their eyes as they maneuvered for the best angle of approach. Not once did I notice a black rush from its lair and gulp food in that lightning-swift attack I'd seen fluke and cod make. The black seems never to worry about its meal getting away. Its attack, if it can be called that, seemed always well calculated. It appeared to be more of the leisurely glide one would expect from a fish that rarely moves more than a few feet from its feeding area.

Unquestionably, the startled crabs were well aware of their danger, for they would rear on spindle-legs and extend tiny claws in defense. This, of course, was what the blacks waited for. The cagey blacks would immediately move in for the kill, and with several rapid-fire nips of their strong front teeth, succeed in rendering their victims defenseless. The crabs were then consumed and passed to the gullet in one quick motion.

The foregoing depicts the distinctive method blacks always use when feeding. It therefore behooves the fisherman to keep this in mind at all times and use it to his advantage. When he does, he is sure to see his catch of blackfish increase.

As for fluke, I have but one outstanding method which I attempt to use only when doormat fishing. This, as with other methods learned over the years, also came from a kind-hearted old-timer who wanted to see a knee-pants kid catch something larger than the usual two pounder of the day.

The fluke fishing methods employed then are practically the same as today, with any variations over the years being of minor character. The big difference lay in the type of bait used to catch doormats. This old-timer deliberately went out of his way to fish for them, whether it was while drifting over open bottom, or anchored up over the bones of a wreck. He made it a point during summer to come prepared with several quarter-pound strips of raw beef liver and a homemade two-hook rig. While he succeeded in catching doormats, all right, and certainly he garnered his share of the pools, to me this bloody mess was a bit too much.

I experimented with various baits to take the place of that raw liver and finally came up with six inch strips of summertime dogfish. I sometimes believe this works even better than liver. I know I've taken my share of big fluke with these dogfish strips when doormat fishing on the offshore wrecks in September.

It is important when using this bait to allow fluke all the time needed to get it down. Don't be in a hurry to set the hook; in fact, it is best to allow the fluke to do that, which it certainly will if given the chance.

So, Mr. Cisar, I've come to the end of a series of articles needed to answer your question on how to catch more and bigger fish when party boat fishing. My one hope is that they will help you do just that. If they succeed in doing exactly that, then my efforts will not have been in vain. Bear in mind that those methods discussed do work. They have worked for me time and time again, and they will certainly work for you.

Now—go out and prove I'm right.

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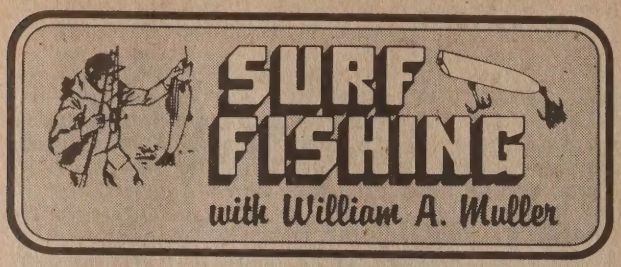
In saltwater fishing there are few unalterable constants and in a way, that's a good thing since it promotes undying enthusiasm and an attitude that encourages constant improvement of skills. Nonetheless, in this salty world of ever-changing scenes, it is comforting to know that bluefish are bluefish wherever they are



BAIT IT, SPIKE IT & SCORE

encountered and that we can count on them to always be hard fighting.

Although there are many techniques that take blues consistently and in good numbers, the call of the surf has always been strong for me. I guess it's very trite to say that I would prefer to take the choppers on plugs, but then what's wrong with that attitude since few things can compare with the excitement of watching a powerful game fish smash a plug replete with spraying water. However, the abundance and willingness of the blues to hit plugs varies from season to season and from month to month. We haven't as yet figured out why hordes of blues will invade a body of water one season and then only occasional slugs of fish find their way into the same body of water the next season. It is likely that water temperatures and the type and abundance of baitfish are responsible for the lion's share of the differences from year to year. Whatever the reasons, the angler must contend with varying quantities of all species from year to year

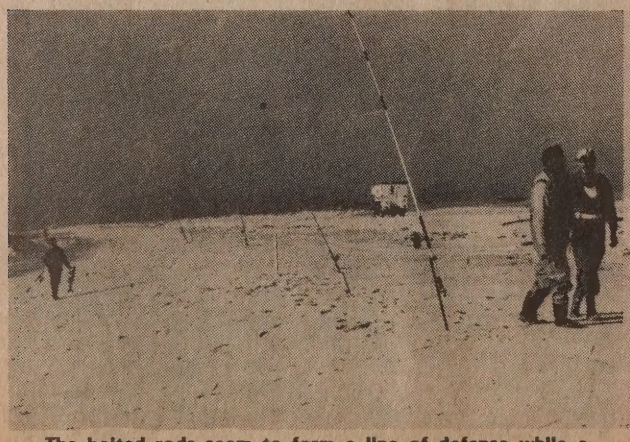
It may be snobbery to prefer taking game fish on plugs and then, too, it may also be snobbery to prefer bass, channel bass, amberjack and the rest to the powerful bluefish; but in the final analysis most fishermen in most areas will admit, from the deep recesses of their hearts, that bluefish are fantastic battlers and will seek them out regularly. I don't think that I'm as particular as some fishermen and I'm proud to admit that many times I'll seek out blues before I'll look for bass. Perhaps that attitude finds some support from the fact that in recent years we have had the luxury of hunting blues that commonly range from ten to twenty pounds. I, for example, spent twenty years in the surf looking for a blue to beat fifteen pounds unsuccessfully and then in 1977, I took fifteen blues bigger than fifteen pounds and one that was a shade under twenty-one pounds—in the surf of my own backyard! In 1979 I was fortunate enough to hit the twenty pound class mark again. I don't mention this chronology to brag, but since my experience has been mirrored by many of my beach-rat colleagues from Massachusetts to Florida, it demonstrates why more and more fishermen along the Coast are thinking of bluefish in a more noble light than ever before in recent memory.

No one knows how long this quality of bluefishing will continue, but one thing is certain: history teaches us the lesson that sooner or later we'll be catching blues with an average weight far less than what we have been spoiled with in recent years. I, for one, intend to make the most of it while it lasts. Still, I'm fairly certain that we have a few more good years ahead and in order to be true to my above-stated commitment, I've had to sharpen certain surf skills that had not been part of either my area of expertise or my repertoire. Two events contributed to my changing ways. First was the habit of pods of gorillagators (that's the affectionate term we have come to use to describe monster blues) to pursue schools of bunker for days at a time in our waters. I found them to be especially predictable in the harbors of Long Island Sound, while in other states, fishermen have found them equally cooperative in river mouths, bays, inlets, and harbors too. Second, I finally was overpowered by the propaganda heaped on me from several surf fishing companions who have long known both the advantages and techniques of bait fishing.

Although the purist in me rebels from time to time, I need only see another fisherman close by pull in a teen-sized chopper to suddenly feel content with a spiked rod and the smell of bunker or mullet on my hands. I've found that my sudden appetite for baitfishing is strongest in July, August, and early September before autumn's first chill starts the fall migration and fishing gets faster; but I have also gone to bait in the fall when the weather turns flat and the migration slows down. Now, baitfishing isn't a cure-all and if there are no fish in the water where you sling your bait it isn't likely that anything but crabs and trash fish will molest your bait, but when the fish get picky a hunk of bait is far more likely to find a fish than an active plug. That isn't a hard and fast rule either—but the percentages are with the bait!

It has always amazed me, while fishing the surf up and down the Coast, how remarkably similar baitfishing techniques are regardless of species. That's not to say that there aren't behaviors, rigs, and baits that are unique to certain areas, but on the whole there are many similarities. For example, bunker or mullet steal center stage as bait; although it is true that mackerel, squid, croaker, and others are popular baits, too. Rigs vary, but are basically the same idea: a good sized hook, a sinker that will hold bottom, and a connection that will allow the bait to tumble around the bottom so a fish can pick up the bait without feeling the weight of the sinker immediately. Then too, we all do a lot of waiting when we fish with bait unless the fish are very thick—which, sadly, isn't a common event.

With the similarities duly noted as generalities, we



The baited rods seem to form a line of defense while a lucky angler returns to his spike (tall white spike) with a recently landed blue.

Beach buggies help the fishermen cover more miles of beach. The blues may have been in this trough yesterday, but today they might be a few miles down the beach.

Steve Petri uses a stout conventional outfit to put a chunk of bunker onto the edge of an offshore bar where big bluefish fed for almost two weeks.

can proceed to investigate specific techniques and how they vary from place to place. I suppose it is logical to begin with the rod and reel. Some fishermen attempt to baitfish in the surf with light spinning rods, but if chunks of baitfish are the bait instead of worms, the light to medium weight spinning tackle can be more of a nuisance than an aid. Larger spinning rods can do the job and it isn't uncommon for anglers to use eleven to fourteen foot sticks with medium to heavy tips and assisted by a heavy-duty saltwater spinning reel. I use an eleven-and-a-half foot spinning outfit, but I must confess that I have found my conventional tackle to be better suited for the task. First, the conventional reel is easier to work with when the outfit is in the sand spike while we rig-up and bait-up. It is far easier to let out a little line with a spiked conventional than with a spinner. Second, it is often easier to work on a nibbling fish with the conventional for the same reason. Instead of the necessity of opening a bait or displacing a line from a manual roller, the fisherman need only disengage the clutch and control the line with thumb pressure. Third, a spiked rod and reel should not be left with a tight drag since this is a fast way to lose the entire outfit. Therefore, the fisherman using a spinning reel will loosen the drag and then, after reacting to the dip of the rod tip, be confronted with the problem of tightening the drag across the line which may already be moving out as the fish swims away. The drag level on a conventional is on the side of the reel and I find it is a lot easier to change the setting.

In many ways, the choice of rod and reel is a matter of personal preference and much the same can be said for the fisherman's choice of line strength. Almost everyone uses monofilament today, but there are still a few who claim the advantages of braided line are significant. I won't put myself into that argument, but I must concede to the anti-monofilament faction of our fraternity that braided lines do improve the "feel" of the fishing. That is, since these lines stretch less it is easier to feel pick-ups and to set the hook. Although there are a few fishermen who use light lines of ten to fifteen pound test, most prefer something a little more substantial. I prefer twenty pound test since I find it to be a good compromise between longer casts, helped by light lines, and the ability to fight a fish tough especially over rough bottom. Still, I know a few fellas who use thirty and forty pound test while most of the jetty jockeys insist on the need for fifty pound test. It is easy to appreciate the need for such heavy lines when big fish must be brought close to barnacle-encrusted rocks with a heaving sea. Most bait fishermen use an even heavier leader and if bluefish are the quarry, most insist on the need for a wire leader—either multi-stranded or piano wire. I know one fisherman who swears by eighty pound test monofilament for a leader. He says that he gets more hits and, although from time to time he loses blues that suck the bait in deep, he's convinced that it's a good trade-off. I agree with the majority who feel that wire leaders are a must for blues. True, I have used monofilament when the fish were very picky in daylight, but I found that I lost too many rigs to make the approach worthwhile. I prefer multi-stranded wire over piano wire because it doesn't kink as readily. I use forty-five pound test leader and make them up about eighteen inches long with a fifty pound black swivel on one end and a 7/0 short shank triple X tinned hook on the other. I have found that if I make up several dozen leaders with hooks ahead of time, I can adapt these to the two types of rigs I use for bottom fishing rather easily.

I tend to prefer a fish finder rig so that a fish can pick up the bait and swim away with it without feeling any resistance of consequence. This is often crucial since sometimes the fish will not attempt to swallow the bait until several seconds after they first pick it up. A lot depends upon how aggressively the blues are feeding. When they are really hungry they will suck in the bait and swallow it greedily; but when they aren't on a strong feed they may have to be coaxed into eating the bait. Many fishermen also use a rig that employs a three-way swivel to keep the line pointing away from sinker and mainline. However, when the bait moves, the sinker must move too revealing to the fish that all is not well. Along the Middle Atlantic states and points south, fishermen used a wire that is twisted so that there is a clip to hold a sinker, a small eye 180° in the other direction, and a three inch wire extension at right angles to the clip and eyelet line. The leader is attached to this side arm and various sizes of red-colored beads slipped onto the wire. Some fishermen believe that the red beads act as an attractor, while up north we like our rigs very plain, although both catch fish.

In addition to the design of the rig, there are other considerations that are necessary when putting together the terminal tackle. Sinkers and hooks lead the parade. Much depends on where you are fishing since the high surf presents different problems from quiet back bays and sounds. In quiet water bank sinkers may work just fine,

(Continued on page 7.)

The Secrets of Catching WEST END FLUKE

by Bruce Surowiec

In all of fishing, are there any **real** secrets that may aid in increasing one's catch that haven't been discussed as of yet? Indeed there are many, but anglers fail to realize that these special tips are productive only in specific areas where they are employed. Each species of fish acts peculiarly to its specific environment. Feeding habits and fish movement are two very important behavioral factors directly influencing fishing in each specific area. While fishing the same tide, back bay fluke, for example, may need more coaxing to get on the hook than fluke found in an inlet only a mile or so away. And so it goes. An "old pro" may not produce a decent catch when fishing in a relatively new area; while the weekend "ling-jerker" who is native to this area, despite his level of achievement, returns with a substantial catch. Who is the best fisherman of the two? The "old pro" is, of course; but when fishing a new area, much learning is in order.

This article is specific in that the geography covered is limited from Deb's Inlet on the west, and Jones' Inlet on the east, including the back bays and Reynold's Channel which lie within these two points.

Fluke are known to be aggressive feeders, especially when the conditions are prime. Areas having good tidal flows, a good bait supply, and of a sandy or muddy bottom composition will provide the fluke with an optimum environment. The inlets and bays to be discussed meet these very crucial requirements.

When fishing this area, it is of utmost importance to know which bait or baits produce the best. Last season, the sand eel was in a class of its own, simply because of the vast schools of sand eels which were common to both inlets. Fresh fluke belly was a close second. Squid, when used with an eel in combination, was another good bait here. The non-productive baits were frozen spearing, frozen fluke belly, and the common killie. Each of these baits are known to be acceptable for fluking, but the fish here didn't want to know about it. I found that getting fresh bait easily doubled the daily catches. Finding fresh bait is a tough proposition, but it was worth the hassle involved.

The rigs used in this locale should be **simple!** The spinners, tandem setups, and the other monstrosities must be avoided here. In 1974, the fluking at Montauk was based upon a star-studded spinning rig that looked like something from the window of Cartier's. They produced while other accepted rigs did not. You couldn't find one in any of the local tackle shops once the word got out. But if you plan to fish here, leave them home. For every fish taken on the "jewelry," five were taken on the simple rig. I recommend using a #92586 Mustad tinned long-shank hook, 1/0 to 3/0, depending on the fish size. This hook is commonly called a baitholder hook, in that a smaller hook is located on the upper part of the shank enabling strip bait to be presented as it should be. The sand eel is hooked through the eye or head first, while the tail section (mid section) is hooked directly below on the larger hook, allowing the bait to appear lifelike. Any fish hitting half of the bait has to take the hook, avoiding many missed fish. This hook is tied to a twenty-five to thirty pound test leader of thirty inches in length, and is then tied directly to the line from the reel, about one to two inches above the sinker loop. I prefer to use bank sinkers since they offer less resistance when travelling along the bottom as the boat drifts. A two ounce sinker can be used when the tide is moving slowly, but up to a six ounce sinker may be needed as the tide increases in strength. A medium action boat rod combined with a good quality conventional reel loaded with twenty to thirty pound test monofilament is all that is needed. I enjoy using spinning tackle, but when the tide rips, spinning gear is defeated by the weight of a six ounce sinker.

When fishing either inlet, Reynold's Channel, or the bays, a definite advantage is had by using a depth recorder that charts the contour of the bottom. Fluke lie in wait for their prey and find the deeper dropoffs and steep channel banks very attractive since the bait that is flowing with the tide travels over these slopes and is easy picking. Anglers not equipped with depth recorders can fish the channel edges that are defined by the navigational buoys. Fluke are also found in rips which are formed by converging currents and water passing over erratic bottom. Again, the bait supply is rendered helpless due to the strong currents, and the fluke have an ample food supply.

We all have witnessed at least once, the angler who, for some unknown reason, left his rod unattended for some time and when it was retrieved, a fish had found the bait and swallowed it, as they say, "hook, line, and sinker." This is a common occurrence, but in reality is not a productive technique. A rig that is worked along the bottom will take ten times the fish. Dead lining may be used for codfish, but fluke feed best when the bait is moving constantly. Working the line by jigging and lifting it in erratic spurts will greatly enhance your chance for a fish. The speed of the drift is important, but can be compensated for by working the rig or by trolling when the tide isn't moving fast enough. Everyone should have a feel for his boat. If the tide isn't strong enough, or the wind is against the tide, trolling or using a short cast and slow retrieve technique may provide the answer. On the contrary, when the tide is ripping or the drift is accompanied by a strong wind, many sharpies slow the drift down by dragging cinder blocks or other heavy objects from their boats. I have observed a few boats using the idea of employing a sea anchor as well. This is a lot of work; but in order to fish during these conditions, the amount of work expended is often equalled on the fillet table.

Once a few fish are on at once, it's a good idea to drop a marker buoy over the side in order to fish the same piece of bottom. A plastic container and twenty to thirty feet of line tied to a weight is all that is needed for this area. By using this information and fishing the following areas, much success and enjoyment is inevitable.

Deb's Inlet is very productive early in the season. The fishing usually begins during the latter part of May and peaks in June. Daily averages were known to run into the twenties, as the fish went two to five pounds last season. The red side of the inlet was the most productive. Buoy #8 was "fluke city" during this period, but excessive boat traffic on the weekends made fishing here a weekday proposition. The range of bottom an eighth of a mile west of the Atlantic Beach Coast Guard Station to the bait dock

(Continued on page 15.)

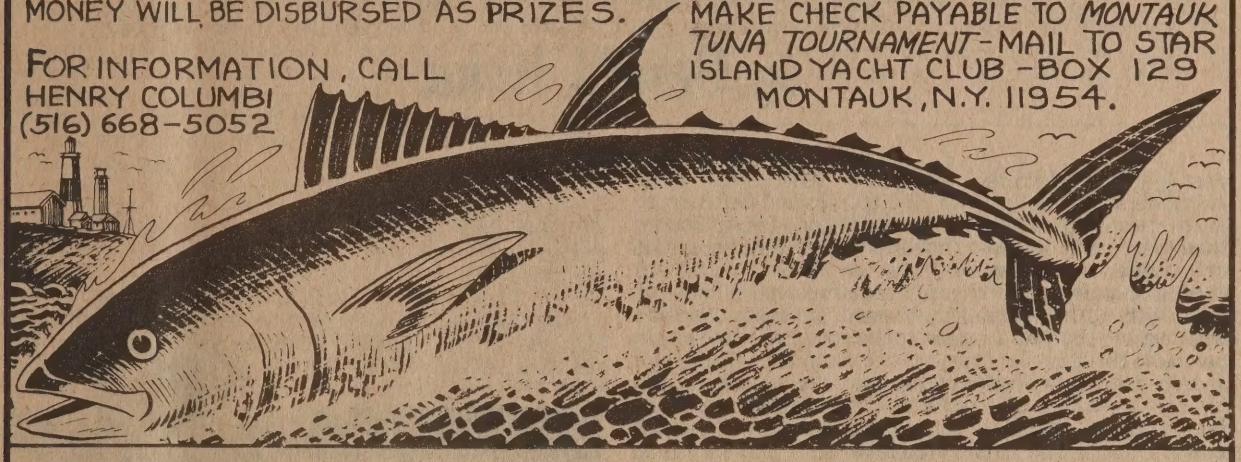
AUGU$T ACTION

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE MONTAUK GIANT BLUEFIN TUNA TOURNAMENT... AUG. 23 - 24
SPONSORED BY THE STAR ISLAND YACHT CLUB... $25.000 IN PRIZES... ENTRY FEE $250.00 PER BOAT WITH 6 ANGLERS - 100 BOAT LIMIT - ALL ENTRY FEE MONEY WILL BE DISBURSED AS PRIZES.

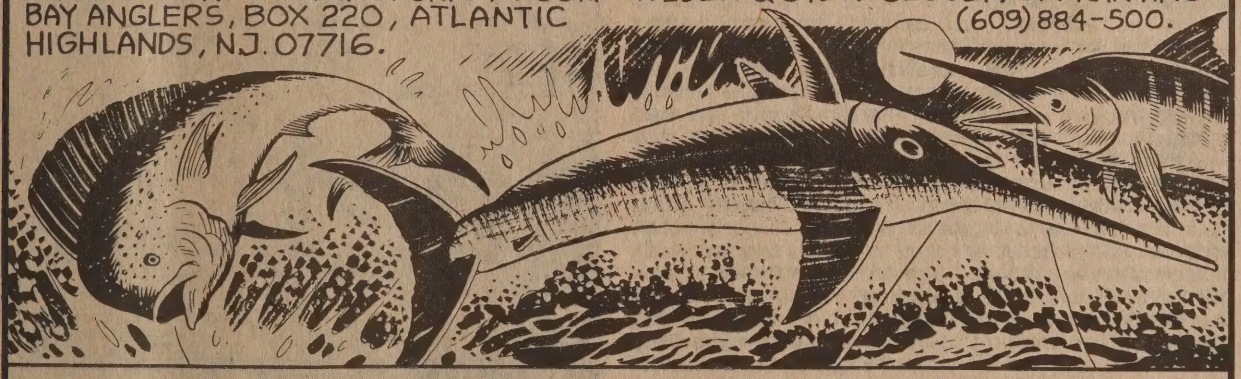
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO *MONTAUK TUNA TOURNAMENT* - MAIL TO STAR ISLAND YACHT CLUB - BOX 129 MONTAUK, N.Y. 11954.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL HENRY COLUMBI (516) 668-5052



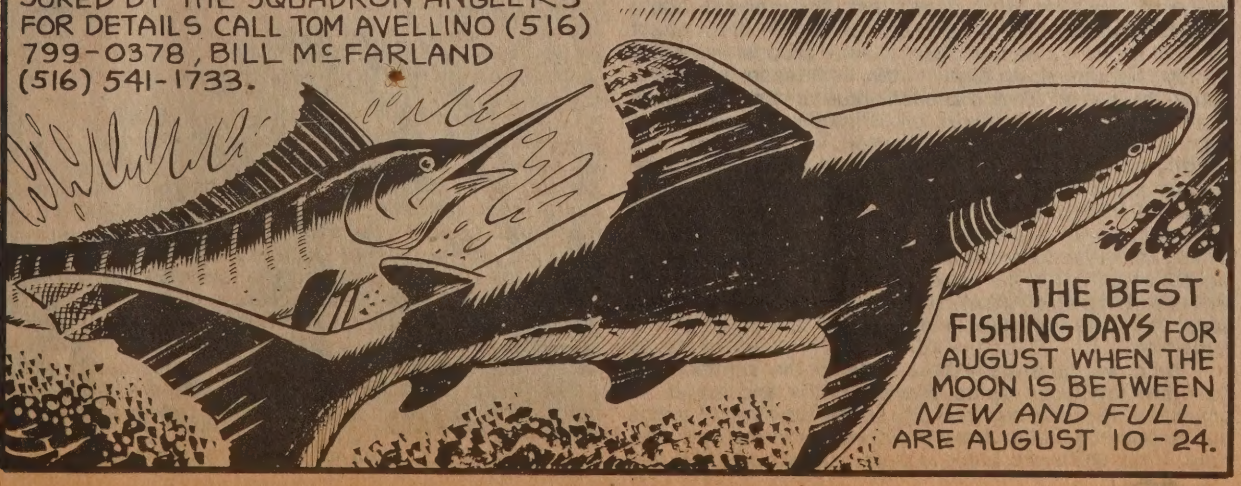
NEW JERSEY... SANDY HOOK BAY
ANGLERS TUNA TOURNAMENT AUG. 16-17. PRIZES FOR BLUEFIN, YELLOWFIN, ALBACORE, DOLPHIN & BLUEFISH - *BY TROLLING.* PROCEEDS TO *CAMP HAPPINESS FOR THE BLIND.* FOR INFO CONTACT SANDY HOOK BAY ANGLERS, BOX 220, ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, N.J. 07716.

SOUTH JERSEY BILLFISH FESTIVAL AUG. 30-31, SPONSORED BY SO. JERSEY FISH & HUNT CTR. U.S. HWY 109, CAPE MAY, N.J. 08204 - *ONE 24 HOUR TRIP, NOON TO NOON.* $9.000 IN PRIZES. DICK WEBER & STEVE SEGGEM OFFICIATING. (609) 884-500.



LONG ISLAND... HUDSON CANYON
BILLFISH & TUNA TOURNAMENT AUG. 9-10. $7500.00 IN CASH PRIZES. HQ AT *THE ANCHORAGE, LINDENHURST, L.I.* SPONSORED BY THE SQUADRON ANGLERS FOR DETAILS CALL TOM AVELLINO (516) 799-0378, BILL McFARLAND (516) 541-1733.

HUDSON ANGLERS ANNUAL OPEN SHARK TOURNAMENT AUG. 9 FROM THE *MAKO MARINA, FREEPORT, L.I.*... CHAIRMAN BOB GARRAPUTA (516) 561-7949



THE BEST FISHING DAYS FOR AUGUST WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW AND FULL* ARE AUGUST 10-24.

SUMMER WEAKS

by Gerald Hahn

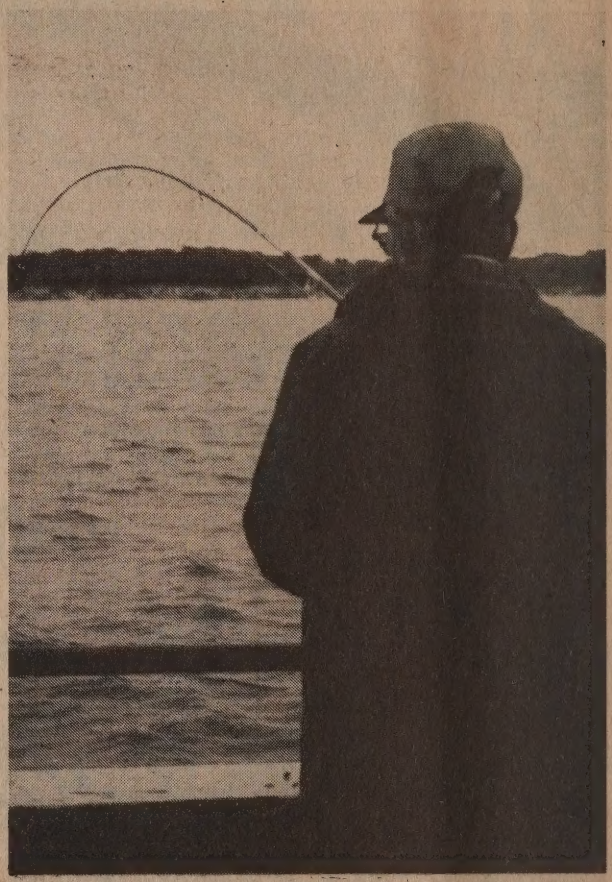
Most people associate weakfishing with those large tiderunners that venture into the Peconics and Great South Bay every spring, or a little later on, in Long Island Sound. Once these runs are over, however, most Bay fishermen concentrate on porgies or fluke; while on the Sound, weakfish compete with blues almost exclusively at dawn or dusk. Although large weakfish leave the bays once the water warms up, they are soon replaced by smaller ones in the one to three pound class. In the south shore's shallow bays, however, weaks are rarely taken in the day, but in the deeper waters of the Peconic system, they can be caught on any running tide, night or day. Weakfish regulars find these small predators both a pleasure to catch and to eat. Like many other species, such as school bass vs. cows, or snapper blues vs. monsters—small weakfish have a more delicate and sweeter tasting meat than their tougher relatives, the tiderunners.

Although methods are similar to going for tiderunners, I believe that bait has the edge in hot daytime weather; while artificials work better in the cooler temperatures of low light.

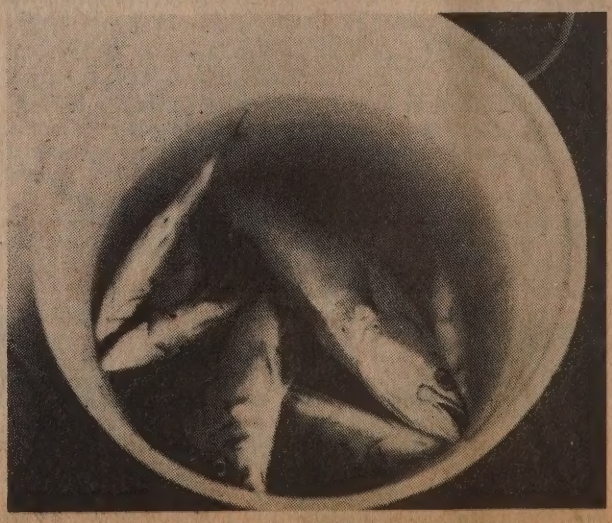
In the Peconics, you can fish for small weaks throughout the summer from an open boat or a small rental skiff. Either way, most fishermen combine their weakfishing here with going for Bay-size porgies because the two frequently show up at the same spots. On open boats, conventional tackle is standard: six foot boat rods and Penn 65s filled with thirty pound test, but many people bring lighter spinning gear aboard—seven to eight foot rods with light surf-spinning reels and twenty pound test. It is not wise to go lighter than this on party boats, especially when the water becomes choppy and four to six ounce sinkers are required to hold bottom fifteen to forty feet below. Furthermore, a few holes here are over eighty feet deep. For the small boat operator, however, still lighter gear is more fun to use—weather permitting—and eight to ten pound test is more than adequate on a calm day.

On party boats, a high-low rig is fashioned directly to the main line. An end loop is tied for an appropriately weighted bank sinker and about three inches above, a one inch dropper loop is formed for the snell; a short #1 gold beak or claw hook with a sliced shank on a twelve inch leader of twenty to thirty pound test. Some people add a second porgy hook, tying it in tandem to the first. About two feet above the bottom hook, another dropper is tied for a short, light snell, an eight to ten inch leader of twenty pound test and a 2/0 regular shank beak or claw. The short snell prevents tangling with other lines when drifting in tight quarters. This snell, however, is connected in a slightly different way. Instead of the normal dropper used below, which is no more than a loop formed with a double-overhand knot, the top connection is tied as follows: a single overhand knot sets up the loop through which the snell is inserted. Then the original loop is tightened until it is merely a knot on the main line. This works better than a regular dropper loop which frequently sags under the weight of a baited hook and fouls on the main line.

Sand worms are the best baits in the summer, by far—although open boats provide clams and squid. A whole sand worm is put carefully on the top hook so that it will stream in a lifelike manner without bunching up on the hook. First, the worm is put on a dry surface until it calms



An angler works on a fish in western Peconic Bay.



Summer weakfish and bay porgies go together.

down, otherwise it may break into pieces from the shock of being handled. Then the worm is squeezed just behind the head, which opens its mouth. This end is threaded onto the point, around the bend, and up the shank. Finally, the hook is held firmly at the bend while pulling the top of the worm over the eye of the hook and slightly onto the leader. When done properly, the worm will not slide down the hook. Because the worm's tail section is highly fragile and likely to break on the first cast or drift, most people break off about an inch or two here, and use the extra for the porgy hooks. After about fifteen minutes of fishing, the whole worm becomes limp and washed out and should be removed. Don't throw it away, however, because porgies love these softened pieces. Some people try a strip of squid above and at times, weaks will even go for a long, pointy clam segment.

Open boat fishing is usually broken up into time slots; i.e., periods of angling for weakfish and for porgies. When the tide is running or around a tidal change, everyone moves to one side of the boat and puts on a lighter sinker for drifting. In-between, the boat will be anchored and people fish from all sides for porgies. At this point, the top hook is usually baited with smaller pieces of worm, or perhaps one of the other baits because porgies, although bottom fish, frequently hit this hook. Nor are weakfish always chasing their baits. Many times they will hit a stationary bait during the porgy fishing time.

The small boat fisherman, obviously, has more options. He can drift for weaks as well as porgies throughout the day, thereby increasing the potential to catch more weakfish while not losing out altogether on the porgies. Or he can duplicate open boat methods. Because he is not fishing in tight quarters, the skiff angler can stream a sand worm in a more natural manner by using a more effective three foot snell at the top. This hook should be tied in about three-and-a-half feet above the bottom hook(s). He can also fish with two rods, perhaps casting artificials with one while drifting baits with the other; or using both rods with different baits—squid on one, worm on the other. Metal lures, whiptails, jellyworms, bucktails, and tube lures in the half to one ounce range will all take summer weakfish.

Unlike the intense fishing that occurs in specific areas of Peconic Bay during the spring run, summer weaks spread out all over. Consequently, it is wise to explore several adjacent areas on the day you fish, perhaps drifting in the North and South Race off Robin's Island, or Rose's Grove and Nassau Point, or Jessup's Neck and the west side of Shelter Island. You can anchor up in any of these areas, as well. Because summer weakfishing is not marked by a brief hot run, the fishing will be sporadic and it is wise to check the local reports in July and August. Last summer, for example, the weakfishing was good most of July; but in the first half of August, which was marked by a hurricane, as well as full moon tides and high winds, the fishing fell off. The difference on an open boat can be three weaks caught by twenty anglers vs. over one hundred fish, and it will be proportionately the same for small boat anglers.

But once the fish are in, you will have your hands full all day. When summer scup start hitting your baits, you have to move quickly or else wind up with bare hooks. As soon as several rapid taps on the line signal a porgy below, a short, quick lift of the rod sets the hook, after which the frenzied patter will be felt continuously—all the way up. A porgy nibble followed by dead silence, however, requires a little patience. Lower the rod, especially when you are working with several baited hooks. If one hook is stripped, the fish undoubtedly will return for more. This time you will be ready. Should nothing happen after the dropback, reel up and re-bait. Before long, you will discover the timing and porgy after porgy will fly over the rail.

But after experiencing the drum beats of innumerable scup, you will suddenly detect a hit of a different order. No taps here; the smash will be solid and the rod will double over dramatically in response to a weakfish. After making long pulls against a lightly set drag, followed by a short run or two, you will finally see the fish surface—a shimmering rainbow of blues, red/purples, and yellows with a silvery belly. A streamlined, but solidly built predator with a large, fragile mouth. If it looks larger than a two pounder, better get the landing net ready or call out "Mate!"

In the Peconics, you can fish for weaks aboard the Capt. Clark I or II out of the Shinnecock Canal and in early summer (many times June is excellent), the Wilhelric in Sag Harbor and the Brand X in Greenport may make some trips here before they settle down to fishing for humpbacks in Gardiner's Bay. Skiffs can be rented in Hampton Bays and Noyac on the South Fork and New Suffolk and Southold on the north side. Great sport and excellent table fare as well. Spend a day fishing for summer weaks.

West End Fluking

(Continued from page 12.)

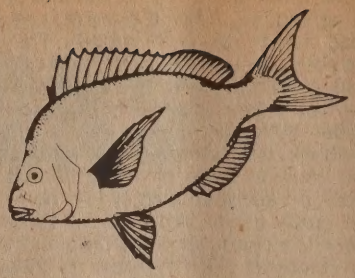
on the east yielded many doormats. The drift here should be close to the shore line—not further than twenty feet from it. The steep dropoff here makes for a prime feeding area. Moving east, the area off the Cedarhurst Yacht Club offers fine channel fishing. Buoy #3 located nearby is also a productive spot, but concentrate fishing on the north side of the channel, and try fishing ten to twenty feet off the Yacht Club. Woodmere Channel and Duck Point which lie to the north of buoy #7 in Reynold's Channel offer consistent back bay fishing. Smaller fish of one to three pounds are on the program here, but light tackle can be used for extra enjoyment. It is here that killies (live) are the prime bait, while fresh fluke belly is second. The deep water, thirty to fifty feet, located in front of Long Beach Hospital was a mecca for the LATE season flukemen. The steep slopes of this area are unreal, as was the fishing in late August and right through September. Boat traffic may be a problem here, but the five mile per hour limit, when enforced, does help control the situation. When fishing further east, the Town Docks at Point Lookout that lie west of the Meadowbrook Bridge offer fine mid-channel fluking. Light tackle can be used. Sand eels were the best bait for this area. The northeast shore beginning at the east side of the Meadowbrook Bridge to the Reynold's Channel junction buoy was the place to be during mid-July to August. Large fish of three to six pounds are common here. Fluke belly and sand eels worked the best. Heavy tackle is a must when the tide begins to rip. Jones Inlet on the east, was a boatman's nightmare with the excessive boat traffic; but between fighting the wake of the other boats and keeping your balance, fluke were caught with regularity here. The calmer water of Short Beach yielded good catches in number; but if size was wanted, buoy #8 to the mouth of the inlet was to be worked. Leave your light tackle at home when fishing the inlet. The fast, rough water accompanied by the boat traffic, made fishing a very tough proposition, and light tackle didn't seem to fit in here.

Enjoyment should be the key when fishing, but when fluking in Jones Inlet, try not to "over enjoy" and keep the word "caution" in your mind. This inlet plays host to many boating accidents, most of which can be avoided by boating and fishing with care.

Having studied and memorized all of this information, it may be important to remind the eager angler waiting to get in on this great fishing, that having a large net on board is a must. If you forget, you'll regret it. We must also remember that fish less than fourteen inches MUST be returned to the water; it's the law. Returning the small fish will only provide more sport and excitement for future generations of Long Island fishermen.

For those non-boat owners, this area has about four or five livery stations, where boats, motors, and bait can be bought. There are also party and charter boats specializing in fluking this area which can be found in the advertisements located in the LIF.

PORGY TIME!



by Gerald Hahn

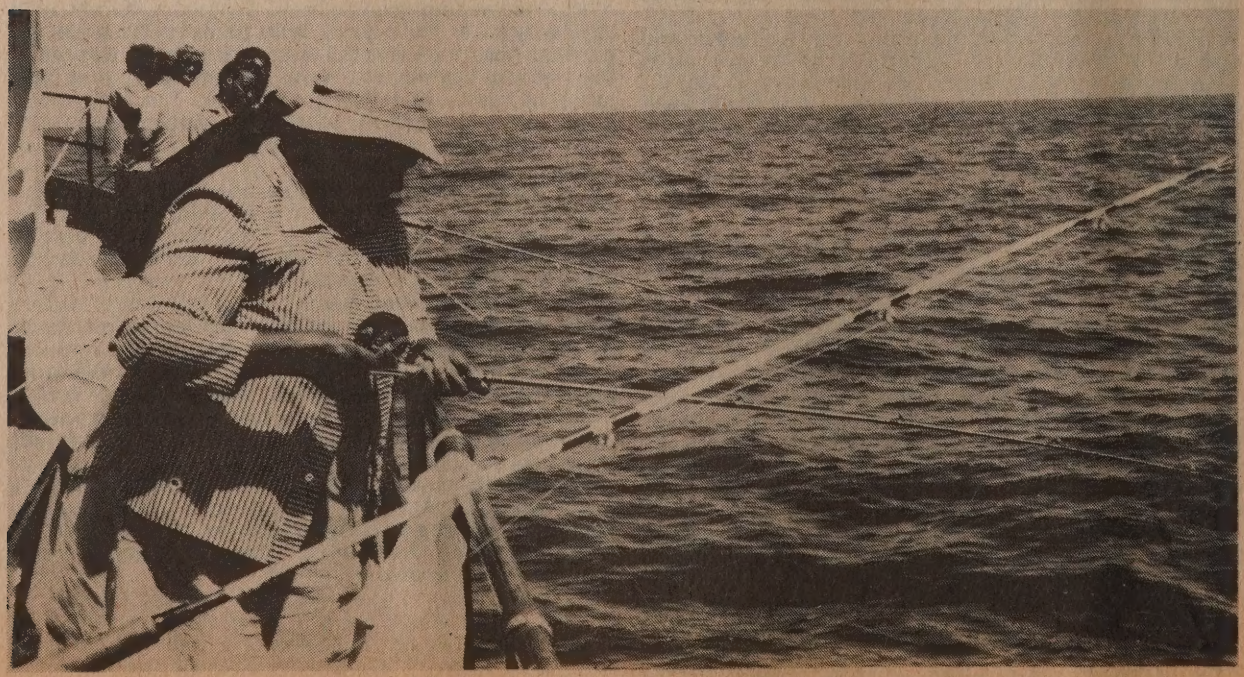
When the mid-summer heat slows down surfcasting to a crawl and makes even small boat operators think twice about the amount of work involved just to throw out a line, then it is time to go for a relatively sure catch of porgies on a party boat. This is the kind of fishing that is easy to perform and highly enjoyable, as well, especially when eager scup, seemingly immune to the summer heat, line the bottom in great schools and the captain puts you right on top of them. Nice catches can be made even during a season like the last, which showed a general decline in bottom fishing for many species. From Sheepshead Bay to Montauk and from City Island to Greenport, innumerable party boats make full and half-day trips to the bays, ocean, and Sound for scup.

Feeling in this kind of mood one day last August, I decided to board an 8AM boat on the north shore after two fruitless hours of surfcasting. Although the sun had risen magnificently, as it always does on the Sound, its fierce red glow on a blank, pale blue sky promised another humid scorcher in the nineties. I looked forward to the cooler air offshore, with someone else doing the driving and searching for a change. We headed to the mid-island area about three hundred yards off the now notorious Shoreham Power Plant, a well-known porgy spot strewn with rocks along a sandy bottom. When the action is hot, party boats will make runs all the way from Connecticut to fish this area. Most of the time we anchored, but when the action stopped, we tried drifting for awhile. Later on, we tried several other areas to the west, off Rocky Point and Mount Sinai. Usually many of the porgies in the Sound are humpbacks from two to two-and-a-half pounds, even in mid-summer, but last season bay-sized fish dominated. It would not be until late August and September that large porgies would be the norm. Nonetheless, it was great fun, especially when obliging porgies put everyone in a cheerful mood. If filling a bucket is not your major concern, light tackle will provide great sport.

Most people use five to six foot conventional rods with reels similar to the Penn 60 for this kind of fishing. Today, however, many open boats go for a variety of species several times a day and unfortunately, rental tackle is frequently overloaded with forty to fifty pound test meant for larger fish. Certainly no more than thirty pound test is necessary and this, for fishing in deep water with rough currents or over wrecks. On many boats, spinning tackle is permitted and an eight foot rod with a light surf reel filled with twenty pound test is ideal. Sinker weight varies from two to four ounces for bay fishing, four to six ounces on the Sound, and around eight to ten ounces on the ocean. In general, if you have to use over five ounces of lead, conventional gear is much better.

On open boats, a typical porgy rig is tied directly to the main line without hardware, simply an end loop for the sinker and a dropper about two to three inches above. A #1 beak or claw, baitsaver hook on a twelve inch snell of thirty pound test is put through the dropper and then, another identical snell is tied to the middle of the first. This is the most popular rig on the Sound. When other fish may be in the vicinity, I like to add a third hook above, an 2/0 beak or claw on another twelve inch snell of thirty pound test, for a possible fluke or predator. This hook is placed about thirteen inches above the tandem hooks below. When fishing in deep water or over wrecks or reefs, a high-low rig is better, starting with the bottom hook about six inches above the sinker to avoid snags. The second hook is tied about a foot above the first. Larger 1/0 hooks may be used, especially when sea bass or blackfish accompany the porgies.

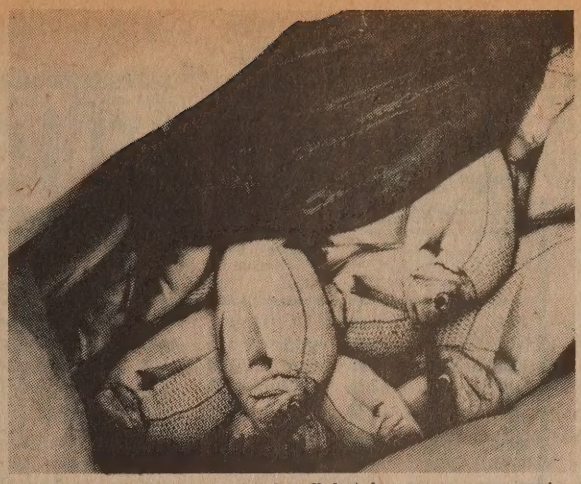
Baiting up properly is the key to success with porgies—and the smaller they are, the more careful you



Attentive to her rod, this angler should do well.

have to be. Porgies have small, pointy mouths, and like bergalls, they will strip an overloaded hook before you can engage the reel. Most open boats provide clams for this kind of fishing and in some areas where mixed bags are likely to be caught, squid may be added, as well. Many people buy sandworms which are especially good when fishing in bays or the shallower regions of Long Island Sound. Clams should be cut into small pieces no larger than a fingernail and the firm parts embedded and twisted several times on the hook. Squid is usually cut into rectangular segments about one inch by one half inch and hooked several times, as well, with little dangling below. While a nice streaming sandworm is ideal for weakfish or bass, with porgies it is best to cut them into one inch pieces, leaving only a trace below the point. People who are overly generous with their servings or sloppy in their presentation will catch few fish and a lot of time rebaiting.

On a good day, porgies are caught on any tide from bow to stern. The boat anchors over a likely spot and the mates bat some clams all around to get the fish started. As soon as the rigs hit bottom, which can be from fifteen to eighty inches below, rods will bend immediately. One angler will start it off with, "got one!" Another with perhaps a larger fish, picks up the chant, "a humpback!" And pretty soon a chorus continues the refrain with "it's porgy time!" No other kind of fishing on party boats makes fishermen so happy. But when the fishing is slow, then concentration is necessary and the rig must be worked. Flip the bait out with an underhand cast and let the sinker hit bottom. Then reel in slowly to take up the slack. If too much line is left dangling, you will never feel the rapid pecks of a porgy. Continue working the rig in slowly until it is directly below the boat. When the boat is anchored, it usually pitches and the rod should be raised and lowered as the boat dips and rises. If you do not compensate this way, you rig will be off the bottom half the time and beyond the feeding zone of the fish. Porgies signal their hits with several taps on the line and if properly baited, a short lift of the rod will set the hook. If no resistance is felt, however, do not reel up immediately; instead, lower the rig once again to the bottom. Undoubtedly, the porgy took one of the baits, but will probably return for the other. If nothing happens at this point, then the porgy made a clean getaway and it's time



A sack full of porgies (and a fluke) is common on party boats.

to reel in and bait up again. Once you develop the knack, you will fill a bucket in a short time because when hooked, a porgy almost never shakes free and makes quite a fuss about it all the way up. Of course, the commotion is much greater on light tackle.

After several dropoffs and drifts that day, we headed back to port, arriving there by 4PM. A half-day trip would have lasted until noon. Most of the action had taken place near the stern in the morning on the incoming tide and thereafter, it was a slower pick, possibly because of the full moon tides. The previous week had been more typical with continuous action almost throughout the day and once the tides would settle down, the fishing would pick up again. Still, it had been great fun.

If the heat in July or August is taking its toll on your energy, as well as your ability to catch fish, try a party boat for scup. Compared to the competition when going for many other species, most party boat anglers going for porgies are like a happy family. Try it and pretty soon you will be chanting along with the rest of us, "it's porgy time!"

Shucking clams for porgies during the trip out.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	11:30	11:50	–	12:10	–	12:15	12:25	1:00	2:05	2:40	2:15	2:45	11:20	11:45	7/31
FRI.	–	12:20	12:25	1:05	12:30	1:10	1:15	1:55	3:00	3:35	3:10	3:40	–	12:15	8/1
SAT.	12:45	1:20	1:20	2:00	1:25	2:05	2:15	2:55	4:00	4:35	4:05	4:40	12:40	1:15	8/2
SUN.	1:40	2:15	2:20	3:05	2:20	3:00	3:20	3:55	5:05	5:45	5:05	5:40	1:35	2:15	8/3
MON.	2:40	3:15	3:25	4:10	3:20	3:55	4:25	5:00	6:35	7:15	6:15	6:40	2:40	3:15	8/4
TUE.	3:45	4:20	4:35	5:15	4:20	5:00	5:30	6:00	8:00	8:30	7:20	7:45	3:45	4:15	8/5
WED.	4:50	5:20	5:40	6:15	5:30	6:00	6:35	7:00	9:05	9:30	8:20	8:45	4:40	5:15	8/6
THUR.	5:55	6:20	6:40	7:10	6:30	7:00	7:35	7:50	10:05	10:25	9:20	9:40	5:40	6:10	8/7

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/1	5:53	8:19
8/2	5:54	8:18
8/3	5:55	8:17
8/4	5:56	8:15
8/5	5:57	8:14
8/6	5:58	8:13
8/7	5:59	8:11

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/10	8/18	8/26	8/3

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	**Major**	Minor	**Major**
Thurs.	8:35	**2:50**	9:00	**3:15**
Fri.	9:30	**3:45**	9:55	**4:10**
Sat.	10:25	**4:45**	10:55	**5:10**
Sun.	11:25	**5:40**	11:50	**6:05**
Mon.	—	**6:30**	12:20	**6:55**
Tues.	12:40	**7:15**	1:10	**7:45**
Wed.	1:25	**8:05**	2:00	**8:35**
Thurs.	2:15	**8:55**	2:50	**9:25**

MONTAUK

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

Capt. Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** had a tuna charter for Dr. Saul Lipton and family and a 150 lb. tuna was boated. That was on Friday. On the weekend Dr. David James and family loaded up on bluefish south of Block Island, fish up to 18 lbs. on diamond jigs. Sunday Richard DeAngelo tried for tuna but when that was not forthcoming, settled for a mess of bluefish jigged up south of Block.

Capt. Zak of the charter boat **Mako Express** called to say that on Friday his party tagged and released a 25" mako estimated weight 6 lbs. Zak says he hopes that this fish continues to get released, that tremendous research can be gained. The mako that the boat took in the MCA Tournament last week was donated to the Museum of National History for research also.

Eddie Miller of **West Lake Fishing Lodge** reports that Stanley Magalster on the charter boat Wee Mac on Saturday had an 80 lb. mako fishing 35 miles off the beach along with 40 bluefish up to 18 lbs. trolling umbrellas. The boat Salt Shaker IV took 300 lbs. of weaks and blues at Buoy 6 just west of the Lighthouse. The private boat Jinx had 52 cod from 15 to 40 lbs. caught at Coxes Ledge with Capt. Harry Smith at the wheel. Capt. John Sweetman of the charter boat **Ebb Tide** took a 330 lb. mako this week fishing 39 miles off the Point with a bluefish fillet on the hook for Roy Lombardo and Bob Harrison. Capt. Art Munday on the charter boat Darius II bagged one brown shark and three makos working 35 miles off the Point. The smallest mako was 15 lbs. A 359 lb. mako was taken on the Mi-de-su. The beast was 7½ feet long and was caught at the Butterfish Hole.

Capt. Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called to say that shark fishing was slow during the week. On the weekend he had an over nighter for Bill Cohen and party. They had 20 brown shark, blue shark and mako mixed. The mako hit 96 lbs. on the scale. The largest blue shark ran 229 lbs.

Capt. Frank of the charter boat **Free Spirit** called to tell of a good offshore week. His total for the week was 2 makos, a brown shark and many bluefish. The brown was tagged and released. He also had a few small tuna. Frank said good sharking calls for a long run these days. The boat is now booking fall bass and blues and also night bluefish trips to accommodate those who wish to fill their freezers.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** tells of very good porgy catches this past week at Gardiner's. Three individual anglers have now gone over the 100 porgy mark with Ben Vines of NYC leading the way, being high hook of the week with 141 porgies. Fish are averaging 1 lb. Saturday and Sunday were very productive with Herb Smith of Amityville loading up with 53 porgies on Sunday.

Henry from the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported a couple of marlin taken over the weekend. The Fancy Pants skippered by Archie Jost, returned with a marlin from the dumping grounds. Some tuna were also taken south of the Point, among them was a 150 lb. bluefin taken by the boat Bronco. Henry described the fluking as fair and the bluefishing and weakfishing as good with Gin Beach and Shagwong still producing well for the weaks. For shark fans, good fishing continued with a fair number of makos still mixed in with the blues duskies and tigers.

Charter boat **Julie III** called to report a 2 day total of 800 lbs. of porgies and 68 flounder to 3¼ lbs. for the Wayne party on Saturday and the Gus Delgado party on Sunday. Fishing was done east of inner Shagwong.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports good tuna action at the beginning of the week. Monday's trip had an estimated 400 lb. tuna on which was dropped after a 2 hour fight. Tuesday's charter for Rich Ulrich brought in a 187 lb. bluefin tuna. Wednesday's trip for Pete Birch of NJ had 145 lb. bluefin tuna. Saturday's charter had two 100 lb. makos taken by Jeff Sayre of Marthas Vineyard. Phil Catatano's charter had 35 striped bass on Thursday

Roger Cope, along with his son and friends, with a load of big weaks and blues taken aboard the charter boat "Barracuda."

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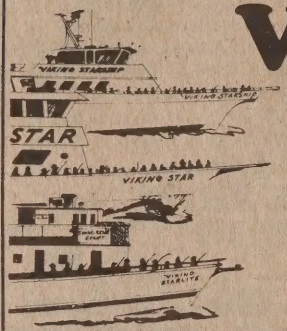

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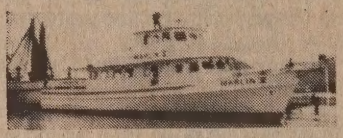

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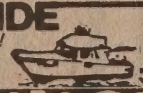

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Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** reports that the **Viking Starlite** has been having very good porgy fishing. High hook of the week was James Thompson of Queens with 62 porgies. The night bluefishing has been excellent with super size bluefish slamming the baits. Coxes Ledge cod has also been very good. The half-day fluke trips are getting nice catches of fluke. On Saturday twin fluke of 9½ pounders split the pool.

This 105 lb. white marlin was trolled on a jet lure 30 miles southeast of Montauk aboard the charter boat 'King Wayne.' Man on the rod was Lenny Green who is standing behind the fish.

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of 21 weakfish from 3-5 lbs. and two bass from 5-6 lbs. for Ron Woods on Saturday evening. Ron trolled spoons and tubes along the Sebonac shore. Also on Saturday, Al Hoffman, Tony DeMonte, Ned and Charlie aboard the boat For Pete's Sake stopped by on their return from Montauk with a catch of 22 fluke to 7½ lbs., 12 blues and two weaks. All were caught at Gin Beach. Rick Botto fished the rips at Gardiner's Island on Friday and took 30 big fluke, most averaging 5 lbs. on sand eels and squid combos. Thom called the porgy fishing steady and said that the weaks are there for those who work for them. In Shinnecock Bay, flounder have

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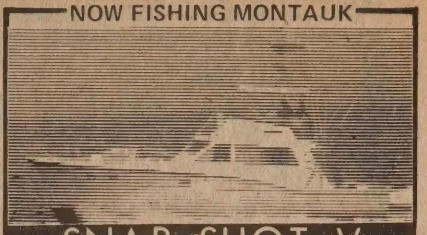
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slowed, fluke fishing is fair and snappers are all over the place.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reported the first white marlin to come through Moriches Inlet was taken over the weekend by Waine Carlough aboard the boat Polyphemus. The 64 lb. billfish was taken in 190' of water south of the Inlet. About a dozen makos from 75 to 125 lbs. taken anywhere from 140' out to 190' over the weekend. Excellent bluefishing continued in 70' to 80' of water southwest of the inlet. Umbrella rigs and diamond jigs taking lots of 8-12 lb. choppers. Excellent fluke fishing over the weekend in Moriches, with squid, sand eels and killies responsible for good catches at buoys 38, 39, 43 and 44. Flounder still there for those interested. Fred Migone had a catch of 30 flatties at buoy 38 in just an hour and a half Sunday afternoon. He used worms and fished buoy 38. Small blues 1 to 2 lbs. at buoy 42 and near the inlet.

John of **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** in Eastport reported very good fluke fishing over the weekend from buoys 39 to 41. On Sunday, Allan, Malloy and Alfred Holmes put away 33 fluke up to 3 lbs. at buoy 41 on sand eel and squid combos. On Saturday, Charles Mekes, Barry Sherman, and Leonard Feldman had 21 fluke to 5 lbs. at buoy 39. Best fluking has been on incoming tide with most boats averaging 15 keepers apiece over the weekend. Small blues and occasional weakfish at buoy 44 and crabs beginning to show in the area.

At at **Highway Fishing Station** reported fantastic flounder action on Saturday as demonstrated by a party headed by Mr. Jacobsen. They had two sacks of flounder and were back at the dock by 10AM for more bait. Fish are mixed sizes and being taken on worms and red-dyed clams. Fluke fishing was good with the action better on Saturday than Sunday. At least one-half dozen summer flounder

Al Eiskamp made this fine catch of ten fluke to 3½ lbs. at buoy 41 on sand eels and squid combos. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

in the 5-6 lb. range were taken. Best fluking has been from the Elbow to buoy 42. Most anglers are using floats to keep their killie, sand eel and squid baits away from the crabs and grass.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** informs us that the fluking remains good between buoys 39 and 41 on the south side of the channel. Friday saw Al Castellano take a 5 lb. flattie. On Sunday Terence Stoner boated 18 keeper fluke up to 5 lb. on sand eel/squid combos. There's bluefish activity during the week but it was down on the weekend because of the heavy boat traffic on the bay. Boats are still catching a few weaks in the Hole NE of buoy 42. Blueclaw crabs are putting in a good show.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz's Fishing Station** says the crabbing is fantastic and is on in full force. Buoy 17 to Smith Point Bridge is the area on rings and in traps. Both tides are producing. Ed Lowe and Bob Howle took 1¾ bushels and were the big crabbers for the week. Large weakfish up to 8 lbs. have hit the area, best catches in the early part of the day and in the evening, incoming best. Catches are being made on the bottom with squid, sand eels and spearing to the tune of 4 to 6 fish per skiff. Snappers are in strong in the 8'' category on spearing and small tins. Mostly keeper fluke up to 6 lbs. from buoy 17 to 23. Some boats are getting 10 to 15 keepers a trip. Fish are averaging 2 to 3 pounders on squid, sand eels and spearing on moving water. Some mixed catches of blowfish, trigger fish and sea bass at buoy 19 on clam and squid.

SAYVILLE

Bob Lee at **Youngs Fishing Station** told of lots of small weaks from 1-3 lbs. on the north side of the bay from Blue Point to West Sayville. Salty Dogs and squid strips taking many of the fish, with the best action in the early morning. Bob called the fluking fair with 75 percent of the fish being keepers. Small blues scattered through the bay and mixed with the weakfish. Crabbing excellent and snappers small but plentiful. On Friday, Dave Crocko and Mike Gardiner fished 3/4 miles off Bayport and took 11 weaks and 6 fluke.

WEST SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **South Bay Fishing Station** described the weakfishing along the east line as excellent. Some boats had as many as 30 of the fish, which run anywhere from 2 to 6 lbs. Small blues are mixed with the weaks and best action seems to be in 10' to 12' of water. Good fluke fishing at buoy 29 on sand eels and squid, with blowfish also showing up in the catches. Plenty of snappers and crabs in the area. On Saturday, Gary McDonald and Paul O'Connell took 30 weakfish along the east line using squid strips on the bottom. Also Saturday, Gene and Nancy Sheridan had 18 weakfish along with some blues just west of the station. This too was on squid. J. Pacquale returned with 15 nice weaks on Sunday, While Rich Rusini had a mixed catch of 22 weaks and blues not far off of Browns River.

BAY SHORE

From **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** Linda said that fluke fishing in the area was good over the weekend with the best catches being made on sand eel and squid combos. On Saturday, Ralph Castaldo and his son Mike had a catch of 10 keepers using spearing at buoy 13. They were aboard their boat Muffin. Snappers small but lots of them from local docks and crabbing continues excellent. Linda weighed in bass of 27 and 34 lbs. for Al Randazzo. Al took the fish Wednesday night on live eels during a trip to Orient Point.

Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Sea Mist** reports that Saturday's charter for the manufacturers of the Chum Pal chum bucket had brown shark, spanish mackerel and bluefish. Sunday's charter tagged and released three brown shark and a box of bluefish accompanied them home. Saturday's trip fished in 165' to 175' of water due south of the Inlet while Sunday's trip fished the same heading in 135' of water.

CAPTREE

Bobby from the **Captree Bait Station** said that fluke fishing over the weekend was excellent in the AM. Biggest flatfish that he weighed in was a 6 lb. 7 oz. doormat taken by Tom Vanshack aboard the Anna M III on Sunday. A couple of fine blackfish were taken by fares aboard the **Jib VI**. Both fell for fluke baits. Patricia Defino and Ken Fleiger had fish of 6.10 and 7.4 lbs. respectively. Bluefishing continues red hot day and night off of Patchogue. Most are in the 6-12 lb. range. They are being jigged in the daytime and baited at night. A private boat stopped by the station Monday AM with a load of weakfish they had just trolled in Fire Island Inlet on umbrella rigs.

Capt. Dennis Frederick of the charter boat **Flying Dutchman** called to say that Saturday's charter for

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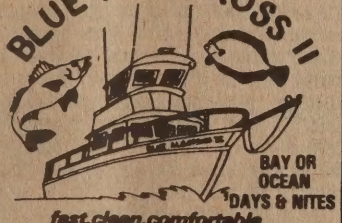

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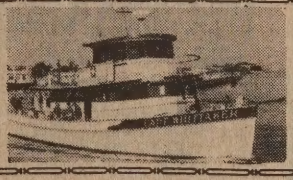

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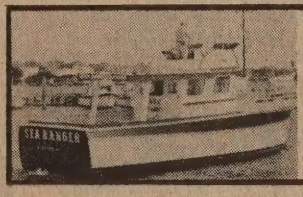

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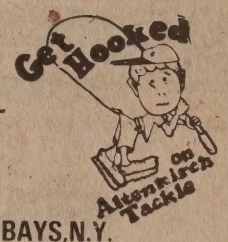

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Steve Johnson and party jigged and trolled a tremendous catch of blues off Patchogue Beach, fish running from 8 to 10 lbs. with an occasional 12 pounder. Sunday's charter in the Bay for Herman Garcia and group from Bob's Fishing Club in Hempstead had excellent fluking with roughly 65 keeper fluke averaging 2½ lbs. Fish hit on both tides. Dennis worked the Kismet Slew in half hour drifts then in the afternoon worked the south bank of Fire Island Inlet in the rip at the beginning of the jetty with sand eels, squid and spearing.

Capt. Roy Mazziotta of the charter boat **Blue Albatross II** called to say that on a fluke charter during the week he fished the Supervisory staff of the NY Transit Authority. The fluking was good with a substantial number of keepers boated. Fishing was mainly in Fire Island Inlet east to the Bridge. The bluefishing off Patchogue Beach has remained excellent this week as evidenced by the trip for Victor Pepitone of Smithtown General Hospital and group. They had roughly 200 blues for 18 people and every one had more fish than they could handle.

Capt. Dan Juttiner of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** reports that the fluking has been very good all this past week and that his fares are getting from 200 to 250 keepers a day on the boat. With Capt. Jimmy Reynolds handling the night bluefishing trips, the bluefishing has been fair. Jimmy has been running the **Capt. Joseph II**. Capt. Larry Marshall of the **Capt. Joseph** reports good fishing, from 150 to 200 fish per trip.

Charter boat **Capt. Eddie B II** reports Saturday night's bluefishing was very good for a large group that worked the waters off Patchogue.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** tells us that the day bluefishing is super, with the exception of Sunday which was a little picky. Night trips have been running hot and cold. The fish are always there, always being marked and coming up in the slick around the boat but there are times they are just not going to feed on the night trips. The days however are consistent for solid catches fishing off the Patchogue beaches. Friday nights trip was red hot. Saturday's trip saw virtually all fish in the 10 to 12 lb. range. Other days fish run 4 to 8 pounders. On Sunday a tuna hit and stripped a reel down. A few albacore have also been taken. Best fishing on the night trips has been with split-shot rigs. Day fishing is all jigging.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy on the **Capt. Bob Joseph** reports that he's having excellent daytime bluefishing trips every day this past week. This is all on jigs with fish 6 to 12 lbs. Night fishing is erratic. It's super some nights on mackerel and smelt bait. The action is all off the Patchogue beaches according to the skipper.

BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported the Babylon Tuna Club Invitational Tuna and Marlin Tournament was a huge success. Plenty of tuna were caught by the competing boats. Steve Pace aboard the BTC boat Blue Water sewed up most of the awards by landing a 210 lb. big eye tuna. The boat also had the most points overall, accounting for 4,000 points. More than twice as many as th the nearest competitor. Steve's big eye earned him the Joe Raccanelli cup for the heaviest tuna and a 130 lb. class outfit for the best catch of the tournament. While the blue water ran 130 miles to load up with fish, most tuna taken by the competiting boats were found from 170' of water to inshore of the Canyon. Al Lorenzetti aboard his Skimmer had the heaviest bluefin of the contest. He chummed a 161 lber. The Tournament Anglers won the overall club competition. Captain John Gussman of the Hustler settled the shark division with a 525 lb. tiger shark. He also had a 375 lber. Largest mako in the individual category was a 159 lber. taken by Bob Castellani aboard the Nepentag. The largest club mako was a 125 lber. taken aboard the boat Three Sons which had three other makos besdies this fish. The Thirsty Lady found a big bull dolphin out at the Canyon and there were several encounters with white marlin and blue marlin during the course of the weekend. Unfortunately none of these billfish stayed. As for local news, bluefishing continued hot and heavy off of Patchogue. Weakfish being trolled on umbrella rigs in th inlet, early mornings and evenings. Fluke fishing was good over the weekend from West Channel at to the bridge and there are plenty of crabs around with many of them ver good sized.

Mike Andreycisk and Dick Becker combined to take these six weaks to 11 lbs. on sand worms at Ocean Beach. The pair rented a skiff from Young's Fishing Station in Sayville.

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FLUKE

MASSAPEQUA

George Buzzetta, world famous accountant caught 8 stripers last Thursday morning, fish running from 8 to 12 lbs. including 3 at once on an umbrella fishing in Jone's Inlet with Tom Rancse and Bob Gaoito on his boat My Judy.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser's reported improved fluke fishing at the Four Corners, Goose Creek and in the vicinity of the 3rd bridge. On Sunday, Ann and Steve Weiss had a catch of 20 fluke of which 9 were keepers. The pair used sand eels and killies and fished at Ft. Neck Point. Flounder continue to be taken at Zachs Bay, Swift Creek and at the 3rd bridge on worms. Weakfish taking sand worms on night tides at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh bridges. Loads of small snappers around, according to Lon. It looks like a banner year. Plenty of bluefish being trolled and jigged in 40 to 50' of water outside of Jones Inlet.

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station reports good fluking with about one third of the fish being keepers with a fair number of 4½ to 6 lb. fish being weighed in. Best areas on both tides have been Great Island Channel from Z14 to the Bridge on squid and killies or squid and sand eels. Some small blues running through the area being caught on fluke rigs. Blueclaw crabs are a good bet in all the canals. Snappers are starting on tins and shiners. Still some flounder around with Mr. Eisenburg bringing back a bucketful after fishing just west of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge where the 2 channels meet, on worm. Also a few sand porgies around.

Pop's Fishing Station reports fluking continues to be good with some blacks and weaks mixed in. Rudolph Melzig of Massapequa kept 17 out of 23 fluke on the weekend. The Erickson brothers of Hoboken NJ came in with 10 keepers. High hook for the week was George Brandt with a 6 lb. fluke. Crabbing is picking up.

Sal at **Custom Tackle** called to say that Bob Tomachbski of Seaford caught his first bass, a 16 pounder at the Meadowbrook Bridge on a two hook feathered jig. This was on incoming tide in the early morning. George Dutcher and Rich Santini and Fred Baier had 5 weakfish up to 6 lbs. at the 1st Wantagh Bridge Friday afternoon on sand eels and squid

combos on the ebb. Saturday saw Pete Venerdi and group troll 7 blues up to 10 lbs. at Middle Grounds in the Sound. On Sunday Pete and Artie Canderlofshe jigged 19 blues SE of Moriches Inlet on diamond jigs roughly 3 miles off the beach. Rumors are that good weakfishing is being had at the 1st buoy outside of Jone's Inlet on 8 27's.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle reports bluefish in 80' of water on umbrellas. Weaks and blues from the West End Jetty east to the Jone's Beach fishing piers on diamond jigs, small Rebels, jelly worms and Tri-Fin eel worms.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports that good fishermen had much improved fluke catches on the weekend on the flood tide. Rowboat Alley and the Fundy area saw good numbers of keepers. Spearing and killies work best. Five to 6'' snappers have started up. A few weakfish are also being taken from the rental skiffs. Some weakfish are being caught at the Meadowbrook Bridge in the late afternoon on squid or on live snapper. Flounders are still being caught with the latest location being smack in the middle of Swift Creek. Nicks Point Tuna Club enjoyed super bluefishing on the **Nite Owl II** on Friday night fishing SE of Cholera with diamond jigs until dark and then on bait.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports that Hestee Campton bagged an 8 lb. weak and a load of blues fishing the Tin Can this past week. Crab and fluke are on the up-swing in Middle Bay.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

FREEPORT

Lou Stalker of **Lou's Fishing Station** spoke of excellent bluefishing in 40' to 50' of water south of Jones, at the Cholera and southwest of the Cholera. Fish also trolled at the NB buoy. Most of the choppers are running in the 3-10 lb. range. One day the fish are smaller, the next they run larger. Jim Altschul aboard his Rough Rider trolled a 21 lb. bluefin tuna in 150' of water 150° out of Jones Inlet. Arthur Levi aboard his Knitwit had a 261 lb. tiger shark over the weekend and the

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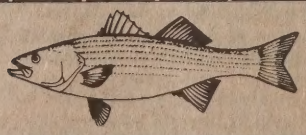

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Jim, Dennis, George, Matty, Mario and Russel loaded up with 98 blues on a recent trip aboard the "Kim." All members of the N.Y. City Fire Department.

boat Nan-Sea accounted for 3 makos in three consecutive days. On Sunday, Fred Finley jigged 20 nice weaks off of Lido. Fluke fishing good in recent days throughout the area.

Ronnie at **Hudson Point Fishing Station** reports blues in 30' of water just outside Jone's Inlet in the early morning hours hitting umbrellas. Diamond jigging with a dropper tube west of the end of the jetty around the high has been producing blues as well. Flounder being caught on worms in the holes in front of the Coast Guard Station and in Swift Creek. Fluking has been from poor to fair with a lot of fluke around but lots of short fish. There are still enough to take a crack at them and have it all be worthwhile. Killies and squid is your best bet from the Coast Guard Station to the Inlet at the beginning of the ebb. The back bays are also producing some fluke. A few weakfish on live bait and also on jelly worms in Haunts Creek.

The **Capt. Gary** called to say that Friday's bluefish trip for Sal, Fred and Phil trolled up 37 big blues from 7 to 12 lbs. fishing SE of Jone's Inlet in 75' of water. Saturday's fluke trip for Jack Silverstein and group had 18 keeper fluke with Jack taking the pool and also high hook of the day. Sunday's bluefish charter for the On The Rock Lounge had a slow pick on blues fishing SW of Jone's in 70' of water. Skipper says he still has some dates available in August. See ad for details.

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** says the bluefishing is super every day on jigs fishing east SE out of Jone's. Fish are running 7 to 15 lbs., depending on how hard a man applies himself to the jigging. If you work at it says the skipper you'll have all the fish you can carry off the boat. A good angler should have 25 to 30 fish with no problem. The night trips have been good also fishing closer in. With fish settling in and settling down, fares should now enjoy good solid catches. Richie says the ocean is coming alive now with whales, turtles, sharks, albacore, anchoives and balao also.

The **Capt. Lou Fleet** reports that the fluking has improved this week and fish are better sizes with fewer small fish now. A 5½ pounder took the pool for the week and Capt. Mike says that good catches were made on all trips. Weekend activity in the Inlet proved to be productive. The half-day fluke trips on the **Capt. Lou IV** have been getting excellent results, particularly on the morning trips. Nine super size keepers were coaxed to the net out of Long Creek on Thursday morning's trip.

The **Capt. Al** reports the bluefishing has been anywhere from good to fantastic fishing from Cholera to the NB. Friday's day trip had nearly 600 bluefish in the boat at the end of the trip. Saturday's catch included a few weakfish which were jigged up not far from Jone's Inlet on the way home. Al says that a lot of new fish are moving

up into the area so that the fishing should remain solid for the foreseeable future (next few weeks). The day fishing is all jigging. It's all bait at night. Roughly 500 blues came over the rail on Friday night's trip. Fish are running anywhere from 3 to 15 lbs.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that all week long, the **Blue Fin II and III** skippered by Capts. Charlie Adams, Tony DiLernia, Ed Geyer and Sy Karlin knocked the pants off the bluefish fishing from SE to SW of Jone's Inlet. Fares are filling up garbage cans full of fish running from 3 to 10 lbs. with an occasional 12 pounder. Diamond jigs and green split bananas are doing the job. Night trips are getting catches on bait and chum. Capt. Sy Karlin asked us to announce that a few weekend night bluefish trips are still open. The offshore cod trip is booking and anyone interested in one of these trips should call as soon as possible. The fleet will be booking cod charters for summer trips and also for this winter.

Capt. Dan of the charter boat **Nan Sea** called to say that his Sunday tuna charter zipped out fishing 135 to 165' of water. In the afternoon the party chummed up a 50 lb. mako and several bluefish to 15 lbs.

While we were talking to Lou, he said that someone had just called in on the radio that he was bringing up a bluefish in 30' of water outside of Jone's when something grabbed the blue right off the hook and then hit the bottom of his boat, cracking same. The angler on the radio was all excited and not too coherent and he was coming back into the Inlet while we were on the phone with Lou.

Freeport Boatmen's Association tells us that the Big Foot ran to the canyon on the weekend and had a 40 lb. wahoo along with 3 yellowfin tuna in the 40 to 50 lb. class. Bluefish trolling has been fabulous for all the Association boats fishing just west of Cholera. They are trolling and jigging blues and the catches have been fabulous.

Capt. Joe Fanora on the charter boat **Ivory Queen** had a charter out Sunday for Mike Mattei and party. They had 35 blues in the 4 to 8 lb. range trolling and jigging between Cholera and the NB. Joe Impellizzieri on his boat Missie J IV ran to the Hudson Canyon Saturday morning and boated one yellowfin tuna and 2 makos weighing out at 70 and 90 lbs. Thursday's charter for John Milone and party had 42 blues from 2 to 7 lbs. jigging and trolling at Cholera.

The **Capt. Bill** has been having a steady pull on fluke. Sunday's morning trip had 35 fluke up to 3½ lbs. and Sunday afternoon's trip had 40 keepers up to 4½ lbs.

Charter boat **The Rogue** on Saturday fished Steven Schriber and Tracy Schrer and they loaded up on blues from 6 to 10 lbs. fishing 65' of water 150 degrees SE of Jone's. Sunday, Louis Feil had 25 blues from 8 to 12 lbs. fishing in 85' of water 175 degrees out of Jone's. Doubles and triples on black umbrella rigs were common.

POINT LOOKOUT

From **Ed's Fishing Station** we learned that the Kozuch Brothers had 22 nice fluke on the flats Saturday. Most anglers have been doing their fluking from buoy 16 to 20 in Reynolds Channel. Small sea bass at the Meadowbrook bridge and off the golf course and a tremendous number of blues being taken at the Cholera on jigs and chum. Ivan Salgo, Sr and Jr., George Hearn and Doc trolled 87 blues from 6-9 lbs. on feathers, one mile north of the Cholera on Sunday.

Capt. Dennis of the **Marie III** reports that Saturday's charter for a group of accountants from Rockville Center lead by the infamous G. Korn picked a way at bluefish from 3 to 7 lbs. fishing in the area of the NB and also around Cholera. Pool winner was Joe Ligouri. Runner up for the pool was Rick Miller. First fishes ever were caught by Greg Pfelb, Howard Noskowsitz, Pam Hall and Marlen Perlman. Sunday's charter fished 4 miles east of the NB and the group from Hicksville enjoyed good jigging in the morning and then slaughtered blues in the afternoon on trolled umbrellas. The trolling was with 75 to 100' of wire out, fish hitting white tubes or purple and black tubes. These were all 3 to 6 lb. fish and doubles, triples and 4 at a clip were smashing the umbrellas.

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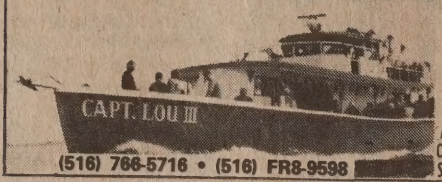

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Glen Arcuri with the mount of a big bluefish he landed trolling in Jones Inlet last summer. Subscriber photo.

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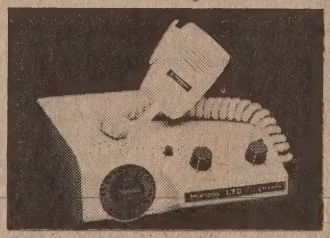

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with flounder on Saturday at the Jones Beach piers. Worms accounted for many fish in the 1 to 1½ lb. class. Charlie described the fluke fishing in the area as slow and said most boatmen are running out to 40' of water for blues which have been stacked up in recent days. Loads of weaks being jigged on 2 oz. sand eel jigs and banana jigs from the Breezy Point jetty to the Tin Can Grounds.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt. Ron Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** says his charters are still enjoying a slaughter on blues and weaks. The fish are now moving eastward and are being caught from the Highlands through Cholera. On the canyon trip this weekend, the charter had 2 swordfish to the boat on Saturday night. One was fought for 45 minutes and the other for 1½ hours and they broke off at the boat but were scene and definitely identified as swords. A 3rd swordfish was fought for 3½ hours on 80 lb. tackle but was lost without being sighted. This was on Saturday night at the canyon. The charter boated 3 yellowfin tuna in the 60 to 80 lb. class. They also had 2 marlin on which eventually through the hooks. The swords were taken on squid bait with light sticks up above. Ronnie says some other boats trolled makos on Green Machines. The yellowfin tuna were taken on Green Machines.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reported fair porgy fishing from the bridges int the area. Snappers plentiful but small all over the area. On Saturday, one angler took ten fluke up to 18" on sand eels fishing from the Marine Parkway bridge. Crabbing continues good.

Pat Flay called to tell us that the fish were not biting at all on Saturday although a few fluke were caught around buoy 7. Capt. Bill on his boat Plunket II had blues at buoy 20 on Saturday but generally things were slow in the bay on the weekend.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

At **Mike's Bait and Tackle** Charlie told us that weakfishing at the Tin Can Grounds is a slaughter. Fish are being taken on jigs and Bingle bait tails and are averaging 8 lbs. The open boats have been enjoying very good bluefishing and fair fluking with a lot of good size flatfish mixed in the catches. Lots of snappers in the bay.

The **Flamingo III** which is now sailing Friday and Saturday night bluefish trips at 7 p.m. as well as daily trips at 6:30 a.m., reports that decent catches of blues are being made every day, though the blues are moving around and are caught in different places on different days. Sunday they found fish on top in the 10 to 14 lb. range and had a super time jigging

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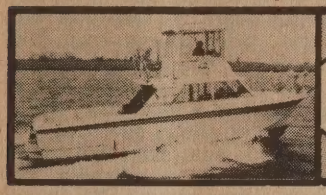

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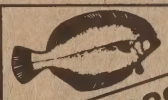

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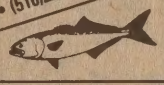

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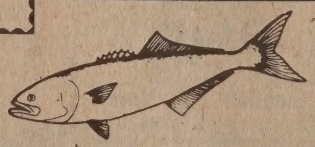

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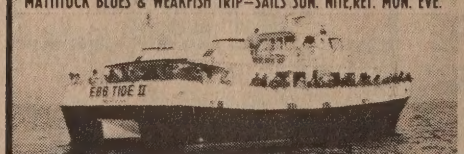

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them in the morning. This was SE of Ambrose. Fish are generally of good size. Strong tides brought about by the recent full moon has had the fish hitting very erratic this past week. Saturday's catch was off. Sunday was good at Farms and Cholera. Capt. Walt says the fish occasionally do get moody during the moon. He says there are lots of fish around, that they are marking them very heavily on the Machines, etc. and catches should really explode coming off this moon. A lot of fish around are gorillas.

The **Elsie K III** reported improved fluke fishng over the weekend between the West Bank and Old Orchard Lights. Fish ranged in the 2-5 lb. range with no throwbacks. Every time the boat had a good drift there was good fishing. Sand eels was the bait used. The boat has also been enjoying excellent weakfishing on their night trips to the Tin Can Grounds. Wednesday night's high hook had 17 weakfish to 12 lbs. diamond jigging.

Captin Tom on the **Pilot II** told of excellent fishing for blacks and sea bass all of last week. Five gallon cans were loaded with sea bass taken on clams and squid and 1 to 6 lb. blackfish taken on fiddlers. The boat is fishing off of Jersey in the Seabright area. This action slowed over the weekend but is expected to pick up once the full moon tides are behind us. Captain Tom's night trips are also doing well, with catches on Friday totaling 75 to 80 bluefish and 25 nice sized weaks.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **santos Sport Shop** said that weaks and blues are being taken on chunk bait and trolled on tubes from the entrance to Great Kills Harbor to Princess Bay and down along the Annandale shore. Most of the weaks are in the 8-10 lb. class, while the blues run 3-5 lbs. Good fluke fishing in Princess Bay and at the storm sewers on sand eels, killies and squid. Plenty of snappers and sand porgies in the bays and harbors and crabbing fair, according to Lenny.

PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says good catches of porgies are being made at South Ferry and Buoy 16 in the Bay. Fish are mixed sizes. The South Ferry fish are bigger and are running to 1½ lbs. on both tides. The

50 foot hole behind buoy 16 has been producing very nicely on worm and clam. Ace advises get your fish on the drift and at the slack anchor up and chum heavy. Weakfish from 2½ to 10 lbs. at the Brickyard in the 90' hole on jigs with red tubes. The Sound is producing porgies at Petty's Bight which is building daily on clam or worm baits. Good fluking at Medford Point right up to the first set of traps n Petty's Bight on squid and sand eels. These fish are running up to 3 lbs. and catches have been consistent. Ace says to try small live porgies for bait. Lots of small snappers in the bay on spearing and small tin. Small blackfish at Mulford Point and off the Lighthouse. On Saturday Ace saw a 15 lb. blackfish, though most are running 2 to 3 lbs. There are still flounders at the traps east of the Orient Station. Fish from ¾ to 1 lb. For the marina boats blues by the ton can be diamond jigged off Horton's Point and Constellation Rock which is NE of the Ruins and there are weakfish below them.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports a fantastic Friday and Saturday for porgies and weakfish. NJ porgy artists Bob Hugue and M.L. Hugue and Andrew Madison fishing between buoys 22 and the radio tower on Roses Grove had over 300 porgies to 2 lbs. on clam and 27 weakfish up to 4 lbs. on worm and squid. Carmine Palacino and Buddy Joe George bagged 45 weaks up to 4 lbs. fishing between Nassau Point and the Rose Grove tower. Fishing the flood with worms and squid. Also producing were buoys 25, 29, 23 and 30 along with buoy 4 which is NW of Robin's. Sal says the fishing is red hot.

Capt. Jim's Fishing Station reports excellent fishing. "As good fishing as I've ever seen" says station owner Newt. Loads of porgies and weaks at buoy 22 and off the tower at Roses Grove in the deep water. Really hot is the deep 20 to 25' hole west of Robin's. Porgies are running from ¾ to 1¼ lbs. and the weaks are from 1½ to 2 lbs. average, all fish hitting on both tides. Sand worms have proved to be the best bait this past week for every thing. Early morning efforts are the most productive and the fish are in excellent quantities.

GREENPORT

Capt. Richie Jensen of the charter boat **Nancy Ann** called to say that weakfishing has been excellent all week, over 100 tiderunners per trip. Sunday's fluking for Eastern Anglers had over 100 fluke.

Capt. Roddy DeLisle of the charter boat **Prowler II** called to say that Thursday's charter for Dr. James Sarno, Massapequa Park, with friend Joe Beaton and daughters Patricia and Lisa had 24 big weakfish and 10 blues. Friday's trip for Harold Laub and two pals boated 61 weaks and

★GREENPORT★

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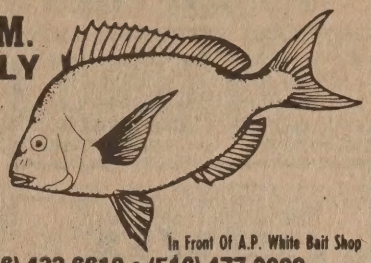

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blues. Sunday's charter had 15 weaks and a load of blues. The weakfish were running 8 to 13 lbs. and this was all diamond jigging at Constellation Rock.

The **Brand X** had over 1000 porgies on Saturday along with 22 weakfish. All the rest of the week saw very good weakfish catches which were filled in with good catches or porgies. Action has been from Gardiner's Island to Fisher's Island and porgies are running from mediums to large. Capt. George Porter says you can really load up. See ad for details.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** reports on Sunday good catches of porgies were had for Mr. and Mrs. Tom Weber of Williston Park fishing with Carlton Tolsdorf of Noyac at his pet porgy hole. They had 28 good porgies off North Haven. This was on squid and corn chum. Corn chum for porgies. Something new? A few porgies on Saturday along with some weakfish. Fishing had definitely improved over this past week and take note that snappers have started and are of nice size.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** reports good catches of porgies being made at Cedar Point, fish averaging a pound on clam and worm, hitting on both tides. In the fluke department Cedar Point has been best for fish averaging 4 lbs. The gain is to drift through the rip with squid and sand eels, ebb tide best. Cedar Point scores again for weakfish, fish averaging 8 lbs. in the morning and evening on squid and also on jelly worms. Good catches of snappers off Long Wharf. Surfcasters are getting weakfish at night off Long Beach fishing squid on the bottom. A few bass are hitting trolled umbrellas in the Gut.

Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** reports super porgy catches this past week and weekend, the best of the year so far. Saturday was the only slow day. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday saw buckets and buckets of porgies caught with lots of doubles and triples. The Capt. says catches are solid and consistent. Full bags. On Tuesday's special fluke and weakfish trip, fares had weaks and blues up to 9 lbs. Fluking has become very good in the sound and off the Ruins. Capt. Richie Jensen's charter boat **Nancy Ann** had 125 keeper fluke on one weekend trip. Please note that due to popular interests, the Tuesday fluke and weak trip has been expanded to Tuesday and Wednesday. See ad for details.

Capt. Bob of the charter boat **Sundance II** reports that the charter for Mr. Easton had a 30 lb. striped bass. Bob says that his parties are loading up on bass and weaks. Bob says he has a few open dates for giant tuna fishing in August.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★
WEAKS

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said boatmen have been taking good numbers of small fluke along the shore at Sound Beach and also up at Wading River. Plenty of porgies on worms and clams all over the area. Weakfish on drifted sand worms and jelly worms at night at buoys 11 and 9 and lots of snappers up and down the beaches.

SELDEN

Angler's Den says that the fishing still continues to be good at Mt. Misery Shoals. Weaks were caught up to 13½ lbs. on sand worms or jelly worms. Good fluke catches have been had at Mt. Misery Shoal, fish from 2 to 3 lbs. Blues are being diamond jigged and umbrelled in the 3 to 12 lb. range but they are still scattered. Lots of porgies up to 3 lbs. being caught in deep water on clam and worm. The weakfish are still predominate from 1½ lbs. on up. Night fishing for weaks continues to be excellent.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Dick's Sporting Goods tells of a good weekend's fishing with lots of blues, lots of weaks and an upsurge in the fluking in the waters off Mt. Sinai. Snappers are in the Harbor on the small side and every thing should be zooming by this weekend.

Ralph's Fishing Station says that the blues have finally come in in force. One skiff customer jigged up 60 bluefish from 3 to 5 lbs. Watch for the birds and try to fish under them. Porgies have been very good at Rocky Point on worm and clam bait, fish from ½ to 2½. Ralph says the fluking has been pretty good, with 13 keepers for one skiff customer who also returned 20 midgets to the water. Action is on both tides and a good drift is very important. Weakfish in the morning and evening hours are hitting drifted worms and the weakfish are also hitting diamond jigs intended for blues. The weaks are running 7 to 13 lbs.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station tells of fantastic porgy fishing at Old Field Point ranging from sand porgies to 3 lb. humpbacks. Best is all around the high on worms or fresh skimmer. Weaks have been very good in the

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

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BIG • NEW • FAST • COMFORTABLE
6:30 A.M. DAILY NITE BLUES 7P.M. FRI. & SAT. NITES
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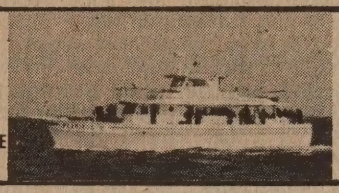

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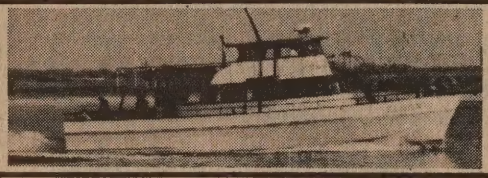

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Eva Delladonne and Steve Debona with three fluke taken on a recent trip from Sheepshead Bay. Subscriber photo.

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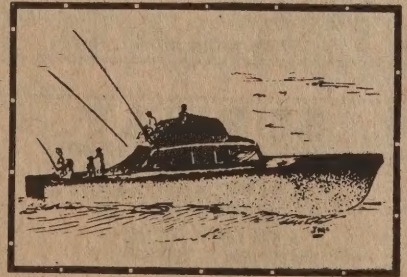

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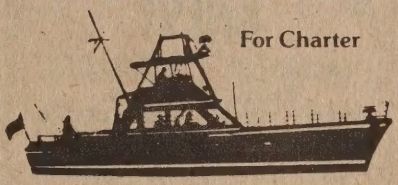

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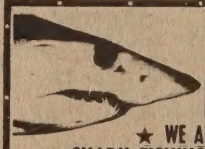

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evening at Mt. Misery Point drifting live worms or jelly worms with split-shot. Weaks are running 6 to 14 lbs. Plenty of blues at Rocky Point for larger boats with a big gas capacity, blues in the 5 lb. class hitting trolled umbrellas. Blues and weaks are being jigged. All quiet on the bass front. Fluking has been good drifting east of the jetty with sand eels and squid with 20 percent keepers. Lots of small 5 to 6'' snappers around, and a few blacks mixed in with the porgies.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle gives us the following information: Joe Belcastro had 20 large porgies fishing off the Mansion on worms and squid. John Koliner and Sal Lengue had a mixed bag of porgies, blues and weaks on worms on the bottom and trolled umbrealls Saturday night fishing off Eaton's. Dave Bishop boated 16 blues from 3 to 5 lbs. fishing outside the river Thursday. Porgies are building now, fish up to 1½ lbs. Randy and pal got 25 lbs. of porgies, sea robins and flounder at the Mansion on worm and clam.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported that Joe and Rick Laluna and Adam Peale stopped by with a load of blues and weaks which they trolled early Monday morning at Eatons Neck. The three anglers told Tom the fish were up on top and were being taken by casters and jiggers as well. Smaller weaks inside the bay at Duck Island on Salty dogs and jelly worms tipped with squid strips. Bluefish still being jigged north of the Lilco loading platform but the fish are sometimes difficult to locate. Good snapper fishing at the town dock according to Tom.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reported the blues and weaks have finally arrived in force. Since the middle of last week, blues running 3-8 lbs. with some larger and weaks from 6-13 lbs. have been entertaining jiggers, trollers and casters at buoy 15, Lloyd's Point and buoy 13 at Eatons Neck. Some husky school bass being trolled on bucktails and wire at Eatons Neck. Kenny Ducker and his son worm trolled 10 weakfish to 9½ lbs. off of Lloyd's Point in the wee hours of the morning Sunday. Quite a few fluke from 7-10 lbs. butting in on anglers intent on weaks and blues. A number of doormats were taken on bucktails and jelly worms in recent days at buoy 13. Lest we forget, best weakfishing and blue fishing has been in the evening and especially in the early morning hours.

George reported the results of a weekend bass and weakfish derby held by the Huntington Anglers and the Mill River Rod and Gun Club. The Huntington Club swept the awards with first place bass going to Joe Nigro; 2nd bass going to Dick Deasy, first weakfish 10.15 lbs. to Al Mott, Dick Deasy placed again with a 10.13 weak copping 2nd place. The derby culminated in a breakfast sponsored by the host Mill River Club on Sunday morning.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reported that the bluefishing and weakfishing in the area has finally opened up. Buoy 15 Lloyd's Point and buoy 13 Eatons Neck surrendered loads of big weaks and medium sized blues to wire line trollers and diamond jiggers. Some bass were taken at Eatons on bucktails and wire along with the weaks and blues. John Munno used wire line and bucktails to take 3 bass to 13 lbs. and a 12½ lb. fluke at Eatons Neck. Worm trollers have been scoring well with stripers up to 16 lbs. Most have been working Marshall Field and Whitewood Point. Big porgies out in the Sound at buoy 13 on worms and clams and lots of

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snappers starting to show with the best fishing in Centerport Harbor.

The **Ever Ready** on Wednesday morning's trip with Capt. Packy Collins at the wheel, hit into blues and weaks with everyone getting fish. Joe of Queens and Monroe Sremed got 8 fish apiece, the largest a 14½ lb. weak with a 12 lb blue as runner up. Thursday was a repeat with Jimmy Michaels of Huntington taking the pool with a 12½ lb. weak. Sunday evening's trip saw Nancy Wells of Hutnington Station with a 5½ lb. blue. The bottom run of flounders and porgies are being caught in good numbers. Robert Illing and Greg Alemonone came up with 2 large fluke. John Campbell of Queens was high hook with 17 fish including a 2½ lb. porgy.

The open boat **Hi-Hook** on Sunday fished a party of 9. They had 60 porgies, 10 flounder, 5 snappers and 1 very large blackfish. This group was from the Forest Hills area. The boat's new schedule for blues and weaks features sailing times of 4:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

GLEN COVE

At **Glen Cove Sport Shop** Dave reported that George Schim increased his lead in the bluefish category with a chopper of 16 lbs. 10 oz. Paul Wolff took the lead in the trout division with a 1 lb. 9 oz. fish taken from a local pond. Dave reported porgy fishing is decent and most anglers do well with the fish, but the best action in the area has been with snappers which have saturated the harbor. Those fishing in the early morning invariably wind up with the biggest catches.

Capt. Joe of the **Lady Lil II** says the bluefishing has been good this week. Afternoon action is at Lloyd's and it is fast action most days. Fish are running 3 to 5 lbs. or 7 to 10 lbs. depending which schools you encounter. Weaks in the 7 to 10 lb. range are being caught off Eaton's Neck. This is all on diamond jigs. Fish are also being taken off Kings Park when they are there. Capt. Joe says catches are strong as long as there is decent weather.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

CITY ISLAND

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** said that snappers are in good supply and keeping most anglers in the area busy. Porgies have been slow and there have been blues trolled and taken on bait at Stepping Stone Light and Execution Light. These fish go to 8 lbs.

Capt. Joe of the **Ebb Tide II** passed on the sad news that NY Post writer Paul Puccarelli was involved in a head-on collision on his way out to Montauk during the week and has been on the critical list in a large Bay Shore hospital with multiple injuries. Paul does the fishing column for the Post. All of our best wishes and prayers are with him.

The **Ebb Tide II's** Mattituck trips which leave from City Island on Sunday night, have been very successfuly except for the last one. Catches of blues and weaks to the tune of 20 to 40 fish per man were common. It's an early morning game fishing from 1 to 1½ hours after the sun comes up. The regular daily trips aboard the boat for porgies and flounders during the week are resulting in catches of 15 to 40 porgies a man, porgies ranging from ½ to 1½ lbs.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Most surfmen develop a special fondness for certain rods. Sometimes it's due to memories stirred by past successes or maybe because it was handed down from dad or someone else whom you respected for their surf prowess. Whatever the case may be, it appears that those favorite rods had better be closely guarded if the incidents of this past week are any hints of things to come. Three anglers in three different areas suffered the numbing loss of their pet rods to lowly thieves.

Fellow Great South Bay Angler club member Charlie Hollins of Bayport, left a rod in his bumper holder at Democrat Point one night last week and returned several minutes later to find his 11½' Lami and custom Crack 300 gone.

Another unfortunate caster who stopped off at Oak Beach for a cup of coffee went into the store for a few minutes. When he returned to his buggy, a pair of 11½' and another pair of 9½ footers were missing from his rod rack. This in broad daylight with a lot of people around the parking lot.

At Moriches Thursday night, a surfman left his big stick in the bumper holder while he put his small seven footer to work for a half-hour. When he returned to his vehicle, you guessed it. He was never more than a couple hundred feet away from his rig.

It appears the days of leaving rods unattended are gone forever. Don't wait to be burned before becoming a believer.

Getting into this week's reports,

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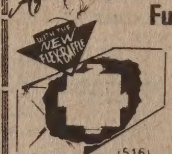

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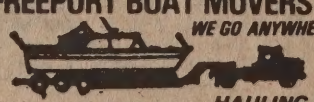

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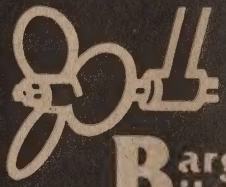

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the fishing shaped up as follows:

South Shore

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** in Staten Island said that bunker chunks have been accounting for blues in the 3-5 lb. class in the vicinity of the South Beach storm sewers. Bigger choppers, 10 to 13 lbs., being taken from piers 8 and 10 at Annandale, but this action lasts only for one-half to one hour right around sunrise. A few school bass from shorts to 4 lbs. on small tins and bucktails at Cliff Street.

Artie told me from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** in Jamaica Bay that the bridges continue to produce some blues and weaks in the early morning hours on bunker chunks. While most of the bluefish have been in the 3-4 lb. class, he has weighed in weakfish up to 8 lbs. Ross Hunziker had one such fish over the weekend.

Lon Wanser told me from his Seaford Tackle Shop that west end broke loose Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Lots of weaks were taken from the inlet rocks on Kastmasters early in the morning and during the evening hours. Most of the weaks were tiderunners in the 8-10 lb. class. Some bass were mixed with the weaks. Biggest striper weighed in by Lon was a 16 lber., but he knew of several other fish taken. A Rebel swimmer did in the 16 lber.

The Sore Thumb continues to produce a few weaks and small blues for casters in the early AM. Sand worms still taking big weaks at Democrat, no word here on bass or blues. Mark Reuschle and myself fished the back side of Fire Island Thursday and Friday nights and put away 12 weaks from 4 to 7½ lbs. Bucktails fished during the first part of outgoing water did the trick.

Out in Mastic, Dick told me from his bait and tackle shop that the only action along the Moriches surf that he knows of has been some 1-4 lb. bluefish taken on tins at the inlet jetty.

Great South Bay Anglers club member Curt Hambsch, took 2 small stripers on tins early Sunday morning along the Shinnecock Ocean beach. Curt was told by another caster that school bass, many of which are shorts, were being caught regularly in recent days.

Johnny Kronuch told me from his Montauk Tackle Shop that casters enjoyed good action with weaks through Wednesday night, but that the fishing died later in the week and over the weekend. Plenty of fish still around but they've been laying too far off of the beach for casters to reach them. Catches of 10 to 15 weaks per man were the rule early in the week under the light and at Gin Beach. Small yellow darters working best up front while RedFins take most of the fish on the north side. Tony Luca of West Babylon totaled 21 weaks and a 20 lb. striper in two nights of fishing under the Light last week. No south side action to speak of.

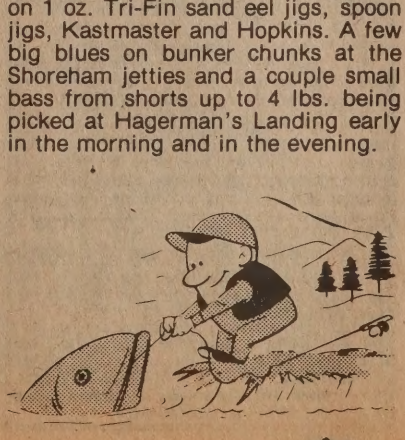
North Shore

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** told me that there's still lots of bass being taken in Turtle Cove on bunker chunks, sand worms and small Rebels. Fish run from shorts up to 6 or 7 lbs.

Ronnie Ferraro reported from his Huntington Station shop that except for an occasional bluefish or weakfish being picked up along area beaches, things have been very quiet. It may be worth noting that this area has become red hot for weaks and blues for boatmen in recent days. A good body of fish has apparently moved into the area and hopefully some of these fish will filter their way into the surf before the week is out.

In Northport, Tom Bowman said that casters using Rebels have been scoring with blues up to 5 lbs. along the beach at Crabmeadow. He added that most of the action is concentrated around daybreak.

Further east, Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** told of lots of weaks and small blues up and down local beaches. Both the weaks and blues run 2-4 lbs. and are being taken on 1 oz. Tri-Fin sand eel jigs, spoon jigs, Kastmaster and Hopkins. A few big blues on bunker chunks at the Shoreham jetties and a couple small bass from shorts up to 4 lbs. being picked at Hagerman's Landing early in the morning and in the evening.



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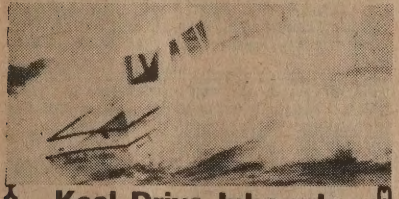

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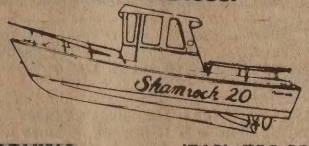

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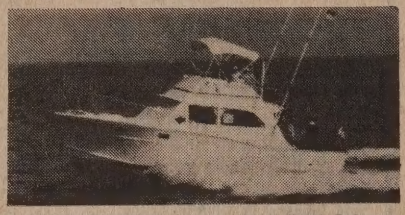

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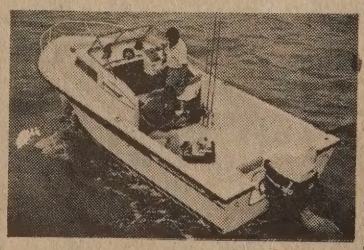

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